

on and radio

Wednesday September 30 1998

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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Michael Holroyd and Margaret Drabble on

Creative tension

G2 with European weather



Francis Wheen on Heath's dull autobiography

Better dead than Ted

G2 page 11



The Thatcher legacy:

Meltdown looms for the environment

Society, G2 pages 12-13

Blair warns Labour to prepare itself for hard choices and bitter attacks

'There's no backing down'

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY Blair last night consolidated his ascendancy over British politics with a Blackpool conference speech which challenged his party, and the country, to rally behind New Labour's agenda, but left his opponents no clear target to hit.

Mocking the Tories and pushing aside Liberal Democrat pretensions, he took a Thatcherite relish in the soundbite slogan: "No backing down. Backbone, not back down, is what Britain needs."

At the same time he packaged unpalatable parts of his message with a cunning worthy of Labour's greatest election winner, the 1940s-style Harold Wilson. Even critics within the conference hall were impressed. "It shows how he's matured," said one senior minister.

Mr Blair's 50-minute address repeatedly warned activists that hard choices and bitter attacks faced them in the drive to create a fairer and more efficient society. "Welcome to government," he explained.

It was a mid-term holding speech on what Mr Blair called "work in progress". Yet he combined the familiar and uncompromising Blairite demand for economic and social reform with a rhetoric which was less preachy and more radical than he has sounded on previous conference platforms.

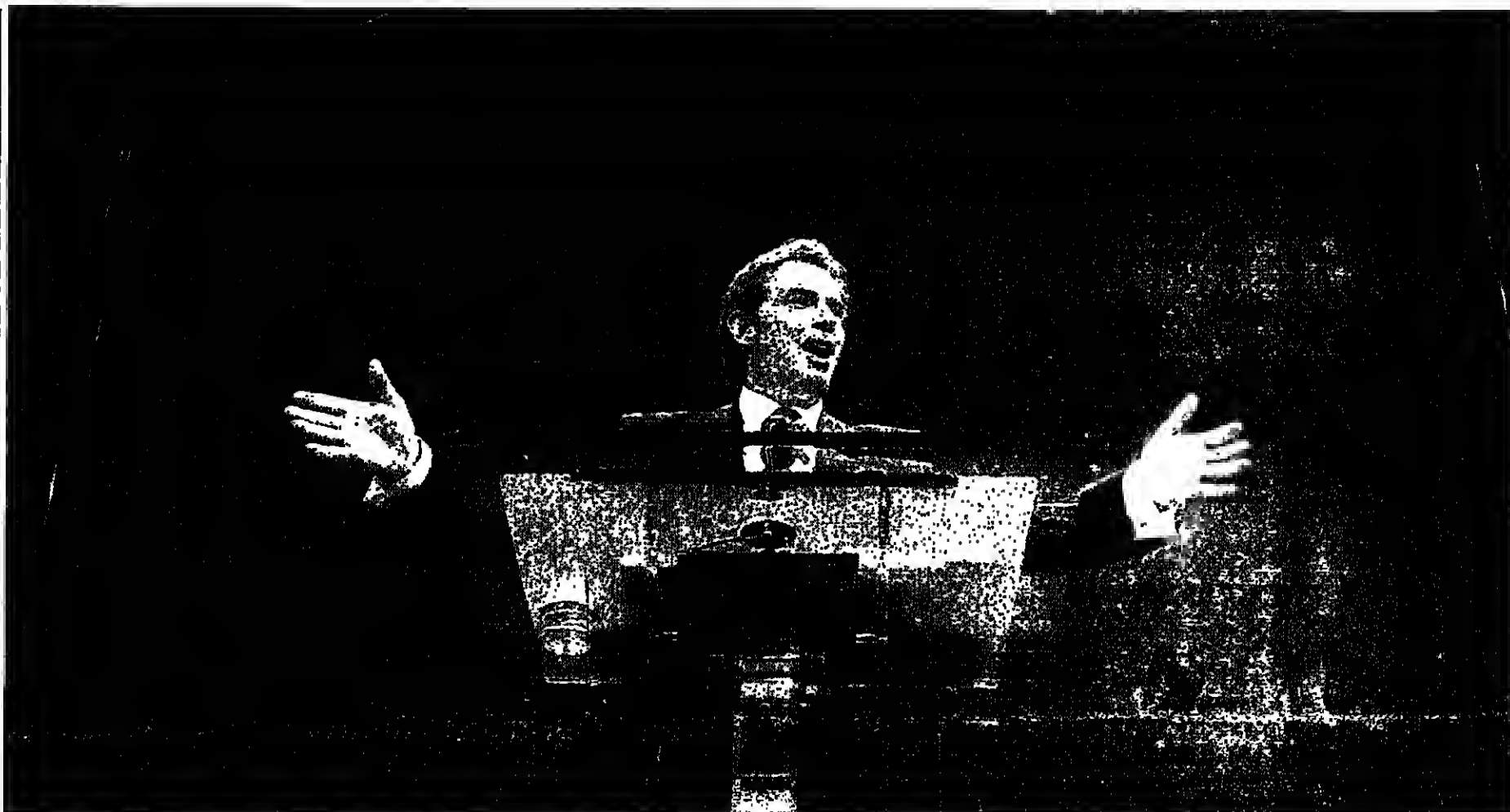
The Prime Minister's sense that the tide is running Labour's way after years of free market ascendancy had clearly been boosted by Gerhard Schröder's victory in Sunday's German election. Thirteen of the EU's 15 member states now had centre-left governments, he said.

They represented "societies based on inclusion, not division, countries that are internationalist, not isolationist... reconnecting people to political idealism in an age where political ideology is distrusted".

Mr Blair repeatedly invoked society's collective strengths: "common endeavour" or "community" in the jargon of the much-vaunted Third Way.

The cumulative effect was to make him sound intermittently leftwing. Not content with lecturing Labour's traditional supporters — teachers, hospital workers, the unions and champions of the traditional welfare state — on the need to change their ways, he found the courage to lecture his new friends in business.

"Be honest. Your fundamental problem is not high interest rates or a high pound," he said in a remark directed more at the CBI than at TUC leaders in the hall. "It is too few first-class managers, too little investment, too little productivity and too



Tony Blair addresses the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday, when he listed the Government's achievements and extolled the Third Way

PHOTOGRAPH: IAN WILKIE

The life of Philip and the lessons for Labour



Blackpool, 1998: "I've been reading a book about Philip of Macedonia. He had a bloke carrying a black stick with a pig's bladder on the end of it. The sole job of this bloke was to walk in to Philip's quarters at any hour of the day or night and belt him over the head with it to tell him he was only mortal and shouldn't get above himself. What do I need a bloke with a stick for — I've got John Prescott."

MACEDONIA. 359BC. At the tender age of 23, Philip confirms the widespread belief that he is destined for greatness by seizing the throne from his nephew, Amyntas. Before becoming Absolute King, he had acted as the child's regent, displaying unusual political acumen.

In power, Philip sets about conquering rival factions in the city states, especially the old enemy, Athens.

He is a master of political strategy, a military genius, and his methods are ruthless. Where diplomacy and spin-doctoring fail, Philip employs marriage, banking, corruption, sabotage and war to get his way.

By 337BC, he has, despite sporadic uprisings from Athens, united Greece in his own image in order to defeat the common enemy: the Persians. But the cause

is undermined when Philip falls out with his most trusted lieutenant, his son, Alexander. A year passes before Alexander is persuaded to come back from self-imposed exile, but it is already too late.

The best efforts of the bladder-wielder notwithstanding, Philip struggles to contain a pretension to deity status. In 336BC, he unveils a statue displaying him as a new Olympian god.

It is his final act. After the ceremony, Pansanias, a bodyguard bearing a grudge, proves his ruler's mortality by stabbing him to death.

— Stuart Millar

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— Stuart Millar



Philip II: a master of spin

On other pages

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Main pledges

Crime: Zero tolerance strategy in 20 areas and a target to cut car crime by a third.

Lottery: Cancer care given first priority for lottery funds.

Education: Performance related pay with a threat that bad teachers will be sacked.

NHS: £30 million to modernise a quarter of the country's accident and emergency departments.

Family: Green paper on parenting to strengthen families.

Welfare: New welfare reform bill to shake up benefits and pensions.

Buzzwords

Tony Blair's 5,097-word speech shed little light on the Third Way, which got only two mentions.

His message is no longer new (only 19 mentions yesterday compared with 33 last year). His vision, too, is fading (down to one from 12 in 1997).

But the Labour leader is rising to the challenge (up to 27 from six last year) and facing the future (13, up from one). Strong language scored 22 (up from two) and was stiffened by both backbones (one and iron (two)).

Buzzwords on the slide included Britain/British with 16 mentions (down from 53 last year), people 25 (down from 44), and modern/modernise eight (down from 21).

Hard choices (nine last year) completely disappeared, though easy credit in a couple of times. Beescom, the odd buzzword of 1997, got a single mention this year, as did hives, extra-terrestrials and boomlet. Socialism, which has been forgotten since 1995, failed to score again this year, but trade unions improved their rating from one to three.

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Touching the nerve-ends that no one else can reach

Commentary

Hugo Young

AFTER four years' riding above his party, Tony Blair chose the fifth to enlist it in his enterprise. Yesterday's was

the first conference speech in which he sounded as though he really belonged to the organisation he is supposed to be leading. Another way of saying that is that he at last finds it ready to have conferred upon it the task for which he has made it worthy.

He retains his grandeur, is far and away the dominant figure. Cabinet colleagues from Robin Cook to Peter Mandelson gazed at him throughout as if with stars in their eyes. They were transfixed. The revivalist preacher continues to touch the nerve-

ends that none of them can reach.

But this was his first serious attempt to convert his project into a collective effort. You are all responsible, he told the party. This is our shared work. I am no longer lecturing. Go out and deliver the message. Remember the £40 billion extra on health and education, and all the other sermon notes. And the party, which is now in soul as well as body his party, applauded itself to the rafters even for the rigours it has courageously imposed, for ex-

ample, no student finance. It feels almost hideously good about itself, having completed its re-fit into a machine for governing. Such dissensions as reached the rostrum have been silently bounded on to the deep defence, apologising for their little anxieties. Even union barons, for the most part, come only whispering to the mike. Heard through ears unsun, much of what has been said here announced the kind of visionary, collaborative belief in a Blairite future that is the verbal equivalent of one of those old socialist-re-

alist paintings. But it did not have to be engineered — which possibly makes it more alarming.

Nor is Mr Blair's own discourse any different. The Great Speech was, as usual, pre-arranged almost as fast as the spinning world he invoked as the image of economic change. The headlines were methodically distributed between the previous day's papers, to fit the front-page prejudices of each. The handlers, as usual, are demented in their anxiety, and liable to instant rage at the faintest de-

violation from the message they've prescribed.

But their man doesn't need any of this. He has the least invented personality of any prime minister since Alec Douglas-Home. His speech made a contrast with those of idealism again, talking about the battle of values, talking the language of what I call solidarity.

But some backbench MPs said the speech lacked detail on difficult issues, such as welfare reform.

Inside

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Hearts could face closure as a result of measures taken by the Royal Opera House to secure its own future

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Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy premier of Malaysia, appeared in court on corruption charges with his wife and a black eye

Analysis
Digital Video Discs can store huge amounts of data. Is it time to junk your video cassette recorder or your audio CD player?

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In The Guardian G2 today: The race to transplant more and more human organs heats up

+ Francis Wheen + Inside Story + Notes & Queries + Parents + Arts + Society + Radio and Television + European Weather

US rate cut to boost growth

Mark Atkinson
in Washington

THE United States asserted its global financial leadership yesterday by cutting interest rates in an attempt to stimulate flagging economic growth and steer away from the rocks of a worldwide depression.

With deepening recessions in Japan, South-east Asia and Russia threatening to spread to the West via panicky financial markets, the US Federal Reserve shaved the cost of borrowing by 0.25 of a percentage point to 5.25 per cent — the first cut in 2 1/2 years.

The reduction will have a knock-on effect on the cost of credit to companies and consumers from commercial banks and other lenders.

Announcing the widely expected move, Fed chairman Alan Greenspan said: "The action was taken to cushion the effects on prospective economic growth in the United States of increasing weakness in foreign economies and of less accommodative financial conditions domestically."

While a quarter point cut in US rates is unlikely to have a big impact on economic activity, it is expected, in time, to give a boost to financial market confidence, badly shaken by the turmoil which

world's biggest economy into recession at a time when output is tumbling in a third of the globe.

The cut was given the thumbs down by Wall Street, which fell more than 70 points within minutes of the announcement. This relatively small fall reflected disappointment that Mr Greenspan had not been bolder.

By this small amount, Mr Greenspan has indicated that he wants to tread carefully to avoid taking risks with inflation.

Further cuts in US interest rates are expected in the months ahead, with the UK likely to follow suit before the end of the year once it becomes clear that latent inflationary pressures have been extinguished by rapidly slowing economic growth, say analysts.

A question mark, however, remains over the European response to the crisis. Although inflation is low in Europe, central bankers in the big continental economies of Germany and France are preoccupied with monetary union.

They believe cuts in their interest rates could wreck the process of bringing them into line with those of the other countries which have signed up for the euro.

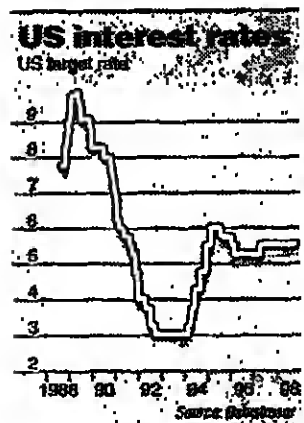
With Europe's planned single currency just three months away from its launch date, the Bundesbank and the Bank of France are expected to sit on their hands for the time being. But smaller countries, such as Spain and Ireland, which have much higher rates, are tipped to ease monetary policy, which will give a positive stimulus to the rest of the region.

Yesterday's cut in US rates comes on the eve of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington and gives policymakers a favourable backdrop against which to discuss their response to the world's worst economic and financial crisis in 50 years.

In its World Economic Outlook, published tomorrow, the IMF is expected to predict that the world economy will expand by just 2 per cent this year as a result of the crisis, down from more than 4 per cent in 1997.

To prevent Brazil, Latin America's biggest economy, falling victim to financial chaos, the IMF is expected to put together a multi-billion-dollar rescue package, although it might not be announced until after Brazil's general election on Sunday.

Wall St unimpressed by market maestro's cut, and City Notebook, page 12



began in Asia last summer, spread to Russia and is now threatening Latin America.

A further jolt to nervous markets was delivered last week by the failure of the US-based Long-Term Capital Management, a so-called hedge fund which makes bets on financial market movements on behalf of rich clients. With exposure of up to \$200 billion (£121 billion), it had to be bailed out by a consortium of private banks to prevent the failure of the global financial system.

The US rate cut signalled that Mr Greenspan is determined not to let spreading financial contagion drag the



An ethnic Albanian rebel helps refugees fleeing Kosovo's central Drenica region. Sixteen people have been found murdered near the village of Obrinje. PHOTOGRAPH: MARCO DI LAURO

Among the 16 victims was a baby, beneath her mother's corpse, and a boy, his throat cut

Jonathan Steele reports from
Obrinje, scene of the biggest single
atrocities of the war in Kosovo

THE young woman lay on the ground, her green dress swollen with a pregnancy that had been close to term. A ray of autumn sun filtered through the oak trees, lighting up the bloodstained remains of her head. Half the skull was split open, apparently from a bullet or bullets fired at close range. Valmiri, her 18-month-old daughter, was sprawled beside her. The hood of the baby's purple anorak still shielded her face, but the lower half of her tiny body was hidden, covered by her mother's corpse as she fell.

Nearby, a few feet up the narrow gully, lay a boy aged about six or seven; his throat cut from the right ear in a sickening curve of gore. Three more women, their limbs contorted by the stiffness of death, were sprawled a few feet away, all shot in the head.

Even before we reached the glade in the woods, we knew it was going to be a gruesome sight. Word of this massacre of innocents filtered out on Monday afternoon when a

team of Western monitors was directed to the scene by an ethnic Albanian human rights group. A local Albanian newspaper carried the story yesterday morning and reporters hurried to the village of Gornje (Upper) Obrinje, about 20 miles west of Pristina, the capital of the Serb-run province.

The journey along dirt roads from Glogovac took us through the burnt-out villages and homes shattered by Serb artillery, which have become a routine sight as the late-summer Serb offensive has moved on. But we did not yet know we were going to see the biggest single atrocity that independent witnesses have come across in the six-month war.

A local farmer took us on foot down a muddy lane where the tracks of a heavy vehicle, a tank or an armoured personnel carrier, still scarred the soil. Then we crossed a field into a copse of oak. Half a dozen men stood under the trees, looking as dead and ashen as a series of shrouds. "Massacre?" we

asked pathetically, using a word that seems to be the same in almost every European language. They pointed to a steep-sided path meandering uphill.

Beyond the first group of corpses we found three more. A mother with two children aged 10 and four had managed to run a little further up the gully. Their extra speed had not helped. They, too, had been shot at short range. It was clear that this group of people — by now we had counted five women and four children among them — could not have been killed in a "crossfire" or "accidentally hit by an artillery round". Without a shadow of doubt this was murder at close range.

"They spent the night in the shelter," said Sadri Delija, standing by the trees. His parents, his wife, and two children were among the corpses. He pointed to the bodies of a couple of elderly relatives lying under a primitive tent of tarpaulin stretched across a wooden frame. The woman's left foot had been cut off. Part of the man's brain had been removed and placed beside his wife's corpse.

Wood for cooking, a small stove and two teapots stood at the edge of the shelter. The extended Delija family often



hid here during offensives in the Drenica region. "They all fled to Cirrez when this offensive started," said Sadri Delija, referring to a nearby village. "They were under siege there. Then the Serbs told them to go home to Gornje Obrinje, but when they got there it was under shellfire so they hid here."

We walked out of the wood to a field where men with spades were starting to dig graves in the damp ground, and on up the hill to Gornje Obrinje. The first family compound we reached was still smouldering. In a charred living room littered with tiles from the collapsed roof, a vil-

lager pointed out the thin torso of a 55-year-old family elder.

In a blackened outhouse the villager showed us a stool where a farmer used to sit sharpening his knives. "The police found the man and asked him where the rest of the family had gone," said the neighbour, who apparently hid while the murderous raid was under way. The farmer took the police into the wood. After they had finished with the children, they killed him too. Among the 13 corpses we counted in the gully and under the make-shift shelter, he and the other elderly man were the only males. Neither of them was of fighting age.

The villagers insisted on showing us more horror. Half a mile away in another wood, where a tank had smashed down a swath of oak saplings as it churned through the brush, Habib Delija, aged 55, and Hysen Delija, aged 40, lay dead. It was not clear whether they had tried to run from the tank or whether they had met their deaths later. The top of the younger man's head had been shot off.

By the time we turned back, the row of graves was growing in the clearing, as the silent diggers dug on. The villagers took us to one last corpse, a man in his 50s who

lay on a hillside where he apparently had been trying to flee. Of the 16 victims of Obrinje, he was the only one who might have been shot from a distance.

Why such ferocity, when the Serbs' onslaught in Kosovo is now meeting only minor and increasingly desperate resistance? Earlier in the summer the Kosovo Liberation Army appeared to have turned into a no-go area for the Serbs. But since early August the Serbs have swept all before them. According to the Serb Media Centre in Pristina, two policemen were killed last Friday "in an attack by a heavily armed group of Albanians at about 3pm in Donje (Lower) Obrinje". The centre also reported that three hours later near Likovac, a village less than two miles away, five policemen died when their vehicle ran over a mine.

So the massacre of Obrinje, which took place around 10am the next morning, was perhaps some wild retaliation. But when has the murder of mothers and children been a justified response for men who claim to be a security force?

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Revivalist preacher who touches nerve-ends that no one else can reach

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speeches, Mr Blair's sincerity yesterday shone through every tortuous attempt to ensure that he was contrived. It is hard to doubt that he really does believe every word he says, including the mantra that there's a third way towards the solution to every problem. The logic of financial rigour appeals to him with the same adamant obviousness as the case for public-private partnerships. Could there be even the smallest doubt about it? The sense that life really is a matter of

community, that individuals can only flourish in society, that doing things together rather than apart should be a rule of global as well as national conduct, shines irresistibly through a political brain that has not lost its capacity for innocence. If there was a key phrase it was the one that described his way of politics as "reconnecting people to political idealism in an age where political ideology is distrusted".

These sometimes sound like vagueries. Yet they are a long way from what govern-

ment was saying two years ago. They set a different course. They do dispose of the canard that this is another Tory government. When they have truly acquired the status of cliché, emerging from the ridicule heaped on them in the Thatcher decades, it will be a sign of triumph not banality.

As it is, the centre grows ever wider, and Labour's occupation of it more comprehensive. It has become not just a party of government, but the only party of government. And that was the other

part of Mr Blair's message. There was a pre-emptively defensive note, as he prepared his people for a tougher future. That was what government meant, he told it. Taking unpopular decisions, evoking instant complaints. The cadres had to be ready to support them.

I think this stuff about the incomparable difficulty of what lies ahead is exaggerated. Gordon Brown was saying the same thing on Monday, as if this government was always likely to be teetering on the brink of disaster.

Blair and Brown are leading a laboratory experiment where there is hardly any short-term politics to be considered

bravely facing up to near-insuperable challenges. The fact is that any British government with a big parliamentary majority is excused the largest element of potential disaster, the need to soothe MPs who have the power to frustrate or even destroy it. Ask John Major. Mr Blair and Mr Brown, by contrast, have the easiest of lives. They are leading a laboratory experiment, unknown in any coalitionist country such as is found all over Europe and in the United States, whereby there's hardly any short-term

politics to be considered. They are unchallengeable lords of their terrain.

On the other hand, they will have no alibi for failure. In asking the party to take responsibility yesterday, the leader also enlisted it for service in the bad times as well as the good. Though there's no reason to doubt that Blair and Brownism will survive a period of recessive growth, what we saw yesterday was a spreading of the burden.

What we also saw was the laying of the ground, to be cultivated with shining eyes

by the New Labour masses, for a second term.

Find all this solidarity cause for a certain watchfulness. Though Mr Blair is a decent man, decent men, untrammelled, can behave like bastards. For anyone who does not belong, there has never in the Blair era been a greater need for prudent scepticism. Since the Tories can't do the work, others have to keep their eyes open. But what nobody can deny is that this is a party, and not just a man, luxuriating in the rich possibilities of power.

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The Guardian Wednesday September 30 1998

Almost one in four families led by one person who is likely to be younger, poorer and less well educated than continental counterparts

Britain tops EU lone parent league

Stephen Bates in Brussels

NEARLY a quarter of all the families in Britain are now headed by lone parents, by far the highest proportion in western Europe, according to a report published yesterday.

The European Union's Luxembourg-based statistical unit paints a bleak picture of changing social trends, showing that British lone parents are likely to be younger, poorer, less well-educated and to have more dependent children than those on the Continent.

The survey, carrying the most recent available figures from 1996 from 13 of the 15 EU member states, excluding only Denmark and Sweden, shows 23 per cent of British families have a single parent,

compared with the European average of 14 per cent.

The report states: "The United Kingdom has by far the highest proportion. The rise in lone parenthood has been one of the most striking demographic and social trends in recent years. Between 1983 and 1996, the number of lone parents increased on average by 58 per cent."

"Lone parents are less likely to be economically active, have a much higher risk of unemployment and have lower levels of educational attainment. The disparities are considerably greater for lone mothers than for lone fathers."

In Britain the differences are even more marked than elsewhere, and the rise in single parents much steeper than anywhere else except Ireland — a 94 per cent increase since 1983. British div-

orce rates are the highest in Europe too.

In contrast, in southern European countries where religious observance and conservative social conventions remain strong, such as Greece and Spain, only 8 per cent of families are headed by a single parent. In France and Germany the proportions are 16 and 13 per cent.

The survey offers an intriguing snapshot of changing social mores across Europe — in the south single mothers appear to be more liberated, generally having higher educational qualifications than other heads of families.

In the southern states of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece too, single parents tend to be older. One constant is that most lone parents — 84 per cent — are women.

For Britain, the National

Lone parent families

Country	Number of families, millions, 1996
UK	7.015
Germany	1.368
France	1.287
Italy	0.577
Spain	0.569
Portugal	0.487
Sweden	0.218
Denmark	0.214
Belgium	0.161
Finland	0.155
Netherlands	0.137
Austria	0.101
EU average	0.607

Council for One Parent Families offered several explanations for the changing social pattern. Andy Keen-Downs, its deputy director, said: "There are a number of theories, one of them being that

women now have greater expectations of playing a full role in society and of what they expect from their partners. "Women are not willing to put up with what they used to

do. We have seen the demise of the shotgun wedding and fewer people are prepared to enter, or remain in, unhappy marriages."

Across the EU there are estimated to be 8.6 million parents bringing up children alone and at least 10.7 million children in single parent households — more than one in eight of all children.

The figures show that nearly a third of British lone parents are likely to have more than one child below school age, compared with one in five on the Continent.

Half of British single parents are under 35 — a much higher proportion than in other EU states. And although working single parents across the EU earn less than their married counterparts — 77 per cent of comparable earnings — in the United Kingdom that falls to

just 64 per cent. In Ireland the wage rate is only 59 per cent.

Lone mothers in Britain are less likely to be in work than those on the Continent — only 51 per cent are classed as economically active, compared with 70 per cent in other countries.

A lower proportion of British lone mothers have completed secondary education or gone to college than those in the rest of the EU — 36 per cent compared with 49 per cent of mothers elsewhere in Europe and 65 per cent of other British heads of families.

Mr Keen-Downs said: "Single parents are poorer and single mothers become poorer. Single mothers tend to come from poorer backgrounds."

"People blame the trendy 1980s but really the trend changed in the 1980s and

1990s, as these figures show. You could argue there is a connection with poverty and unemployment, which puts all sorts of pressures on relationships... if young women cannot find a lifetime partner with reasonable opportunities, they are more likely to go it alone."

The Council stressed that the majority of British lone parents are married or in a steady relationship at the time their children are born. Only 1 per cent are teenaged mothers but 38 per cent — the fastest growing group — have never been married.

"Very few women choose to become a single parent. It is not an easy option. Most set out with the intention of being in a stable relationship. Nearly four-fifths of newborn children last year were registered by both parents," he said.

Thieves find hard cheese easy pickings

Geoffrey Gibbs

JAMIE Montgomery knew it couldn't have been nice. Nor did it seem likely that Wallace and Gromit had mistaken his cold store for the moon on their grand day out.

The only question that remained was whether he was dealing with a professional gang of cheese snatchers or a sinister example of skulduggery from a jealous rival seeking to prevent his unprecedented run of success as Britain's top cheese-maker.

The burglars knew exactly what they were after as they bumped across the muddy field at the back of Mr Montgomery's Somerset farm. They entered the farm's cold store during the night and loaded 274 mature cheddar cheeses into their waiting vehicle.

Five tonnes of the award-winning cheese disappeared during the weekend raid, leaving the family-run business despondent and £30,000 out of pocket.

Mr Montgomery, a third generation cheese maker, has achieved unparalleled success in his chosen pro-



Jamie Montgomery with a cheese similar to the ones stolen. "One theory is that a jealous rival would think it worthwhile pinching them" PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BROWN

fession and counts leading stores and delicatessens such as Fortnum and Mason, Harrods and Neal's Yard among stockists of his products.

For the past two years the traditional cheddar made from unpasteurised milk at the family farm near Win-

canton has carried all before it at the industry's prestigious annual awards ceremony.

But preparations for a renewed assault on the gold medals at today's British Cheese Awards in London have been hit badly by the theft.

Losses represent almost one month's production and the cheeses were careful to take only cheeses that had been maturing for 12 months or more.

Mr Montgomery, who has put up a £2,000 reward for the return of the cheeses, said he was keeping an

open mind about who was behind the theft. "One theory is that a jealous rival would think it worthwhile pinching and dumping the cheese in order to create a hole in the market that they could fill," he said yesterday.

Another theory is that it

has already been shipped abroad, possibly to America.

A spokesman for Avon and Somerset said: "It is an awful lot of cheese to get rid of and we would appeal to anybody who is offered cheese to get in touch with Crimestoppers."

This cloying tart leaves a bad taste behind

Review

Phil Daoust

Lilly Savage
Demotte Theatre
Northampton

THERE must be a word for Lilly Savage's show. Roget's offers refuse, muck, pig-swill, slop, hogwash, hilgewater and dross among many others, but none of them seems quite up to it. They don't convey the emptiness, the tedious, the way it sets your teeth on edge. Imagine two hours of fingernails scraping a blackboard and you'll get some idea.

This festival of kitsch starts with 40 minutes or so of Bob Downe, aka comic actor Mark Trevor. A "confirmed bachelor" from Down Under, he looks like a catalogue model past his best, dresses in the most revolting 1970s gear you can imagine and does deliberately tacky song-and-dance numbers mixed in with risqué repartee.

The joke soon wears thin, but if you can keep your eyes and ears open long enough, you'll eventually catch him crooning *Fly Me to the Moon* while making the exits are located over the wings hand gesture and declaring: "Welcome to GayJet." He calls himself "a Radio 2 guy in a Radio 1 world", but it's worse than that: he's old-style Radio 2, before it got modern.

It ends with an hour of Savage, 6ft-plus of bulking man

squeezed into a series of flamboyant dresses, who still, remarkably, manages to avoid showing any stage presence. Emerging from a giant bottle and proceeding to press tiny old gng into service, from the mysterious transformation of Coronation Street's Nicky Platt (eligible for his free bus pass, that one) to the already overexposed subject of Clinton, Lewinsky and the dress full of "Billy Bunk", Savage just gives us Another Chance. To Hear those dirty-ish put-downs and crotch-like voice. Whether or not you like Lilly (and I used to), the character's already established as a tart with no heart. This was a missed opportunity to build on the role.

In small doses, either Savage or Downe would have been bearable. But the whole evening was a chase for the easy laugh — as much bad faith as bad taste. This didn't seem to bother the sold-out audience, but Savage has a huge following because of his stints on *The Big Breakfast* and *Blankety Blank*, and a high TV profile seems to guarantee performers an easy ride.

The one enjoyable interlude came from Sonia, the bubbly Little Munchkin who Sang For Britain in the 1993 Eurovision and wound up the first half of the show with a few singalong numbers. She alone showed some hint of genuine professional performance. Like Downe, she's got a good voice; unlike him, she can actually be bothered to use it. For a few moments, as she gave an a cappella *You To Me Are Everything*, the evening actually seemed bearable.



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Theatre fears ROH 'fall-out'

Amelia Gentleman on the crisis marring Sadler's Wells' relaunch

SADLER'S Wells theatre could face closure as a result of the measures taken by the Royal Opera House to secure Covent Garden's long-term future, it announced yesterday.

Chief executive Ian Albery said the future of the theatre in Islington, north London, had been put in jeopardy by the Arts Council's decision to close the Opera House next year — cancelling 25 weeks of performances scheduled for Sadler's Wells. The theatre has been left with an immediate gap in its revenue of more than £1 million as well as severe long-term financial problems.

The uncertainty has overshadowed what should have been the triumphant opening of the new £44 million Sadler's Wells theatre next



The new £44 million Sadler's Wells theatre in Islington, north London, due to open next month but facing an uncertain future. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON



'This lack of thought and co-ordination could put in jeopardy Sadler's Wells as an institution'

— Ian Albery, chief executive

month. Unless a replacement programme can be found, the theatre will have to close for six months from April.

Mr Albery was negotiating with the Arts Council yesterday to establish if and how the £1 million shortfall can be recovered.

The surprise announcement of the ROH's temporary closure earlier this month left Sadler's Wells management scrambling for alternative performers to fill the holes in its programme between April and September 1999. The theatre's fundraising capacity has also been damaged — threatening its survival.

No figure has been put on the overall damage, but Mr Albery said the theatre would be calculating the knock-on cost of this "cock-up" for some time to come.

"I need hardly point out the

dangers for a theatre that opens in October and closes six months later for a period of six months. It would mean redundancies for all our staff of over 100.

"More important is the effect it will have on our fundraising — believe me, we will not get sponsorship if we haven't got an artistic programme."

He warned: "This isn't a matter of three, four or five million — this could cost our

entire project. This lack of thought and co-ordination could put in jeopardy Sadler's Wells as an institution."

Successful fundraising is crucial to the theatre's survival; over the financial year 1998/1999 it will receive £220,000 in public funding — mainly from the London Arts Board — but needs to raise another £700,000 through fundraising and corporate sponsorship. In addition, the theatre still has to raise

around £3 million to pay for its new building.

Sadler's Wells had reluctantly agreed to house the ROH in its new premises for six months in 1999 while the Opera House's own building was completed; the ROH was contracted to rent the new premises from Sadler's Wells for £1 million.

Now the contract has been broken, Sadler's Wells must not only relieve this sum, but needs also to pay another

company to perform instead. A high calibre company, like the Frankfurt Ballet, costs as much as £250,000 a week, of which about £100,000 can be recouped through the box office. The shortfall has to be met by fundraising, which could prove difficult at such a late stage.

If negotiations with the Arts Council go well and £1 million compensation is received, Neil Hinds, Sadler's Wells arts programming di-

rector, is confident he can find replacement performers. Programming is usually done two years ahead so Sadler's Wells will have to rely on scooping up those troupes whose plans have recently fallen through or pick on second-rate substitutes.

Chairman Ian Hay-Davison said: "It would be a bit disappointing to go to all this trouble to open a new theatre only to put on tedious shows."

'People's channel' projects a new image

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

IN its first on-screen revamp for 10 years, ITV yesterday revealed a £1 million logo, which it hopes will make it a true "people's channel".

The new logo, a heart symbol and a slogan — "TV from the heart" — will appear on trailers from October 5. There is also a poster campaign based on some of the channel's hit shows, advertising the change.

Unveiling the network's new look yesterday, John Hardie, ITV marketing and commercial director, said it was important for the network to have an adaptable

symbol, along the lines of BBC1's hot air balloon and BBC2's number 2.

The channel has devised several uses for the heart, although Mr Hardie emphasised the symbol itself would not be a "sentimental Valentine-type heart". He said it would show that ITV was at the "heart of the action, at the heart of current affairs, at the heart of the nation". So far, the designs include a Union Jack pendant, a cake, and fireworks.

The network hopes a more friendly and approachable outlook will help reinforce its aim to reach a 40 per cent share of the peak-time audience by the end of 2000.

The director of programmes, David Liddiment,



In with the new: ITV's heart symbol and logo, which will be seen on television screens from next Monday

also announced some of the programming highlights for next year. ITV has signed an exclusive deal to show the entire library of James Bond movies next year, culminating in the terrestrial premiere of Goldeneye. As part of the deal, ITV will screen the television premiere of the

latest Bond movie, Tomorrow Never Dies and its follow-up, Bond 19, before Sky Television.

Mr Liddiment also announced a deal with one of the world's top sitcom producers, US-based Carsey Werner.

The company behind Ro-

sanne, The Cosby Show and Third Rock From The Sun is to produce a UK version of its US series That '70s Show for ITV. Carsey Werner aims to make up to 22 episodes a year of the sitcom.

As part of a drive to attract more ABC1 viewers to ITV, Mr Liddiment has also lured

one of the country's most prominent drama writers from Channel 4. Alan Bleasdale has written a six-part adaptation of Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist which will be broadcast next year.

Also aimed at younger, up-market viewers, is a new series, Wonderful You, starring Greg Wise. Telling the stories of a group of 30-year-old north Londoners, the series is made by the producers of Men Behaving Badly.

Along with these innovations, there will be more docu-soaps. Real Families is a "no-holds-barred look at everyday family life", there will be a second series of Airline, and a one-off special, Parking Wars, will be made into a series.

Inquiry over Menson killing

Amelia Gentleman

THE Police Complaints Authority has launched an inquiry into why the Metropolitan police made serious mistakes in dealing with the death of Michael Menson, the black musician set on fire in north London.



Michael Menson: Police made serious mistakes

Mr Menson, aged 30, was seen with his clothes on fire near the North Circular road in January last year. He died in Billericay hospital, Essex, two weeks later. Police initially assumed he had set himself alight and did not launch a criminal inquiry for 12 hours. A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded at an inquest this month.

Solicitors for his family complained about the way officers handled the case. PCA member Jim Elliott has appointed Ben Gunn, chief constable of Cambridgeshire, as investigating officer.

Scotland Yard has admitted in a letter to the family that senior officers made serious mistakes. Since an internal review, three of the four officers concerned have retired or are about to retire.

Mr Menson suffered burns

to his back, thighs and buttocks. Forensic scientists and pathologists testified at the inquest that the nature of his injuries made it almost inconceivable that he had set fire to himself.

Suresh Grover, a spokesman for the Menson family, said: "Their paramount concern is to convince the police to establish a fresh team to investigate the murder. They are concerned that too many resources will be put into the complaint and not into re-investigating the murder."

Airline drug smuggler caught after reporting his lost luggage — packed with 16 kilos of cannabis

Geoffrey Gibbs

ADRUG smuggler who flew into Britain with more than 60 blocks of cannabis in his suitcase was arrested after complaining to lost property that his luggage had gone missing.

Christopher Dowling, a

burglar alarm engineer from County Kildare, hid the drugs before taking a flight from Dublin to Cardiff. Unknown to him, his luggage took a different flight. When he got to Cardiff his suitcase was nowhere to be seen on the airport's baggage carousel. So, Dowling reported it missing

and checked into a local bed and breakfast while he waited for it to turn up.

The errant bag was eventually traced to Teesside airport where customs officers opened it to make sure they were returning it with its rightful owner. Inside they discovered 16 kilos of cannabis carefully wrapped

in a blanket among Dowling's possessions.

Dowling, 20, was arrested by customs officials when he went to pick it up from the airport the next day, and this week was sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institution after admitting a charge of smuggling. Judge

Martin Stephens told him: "Anyone who imports cannabis on this scale can only expect to be imprisoned."

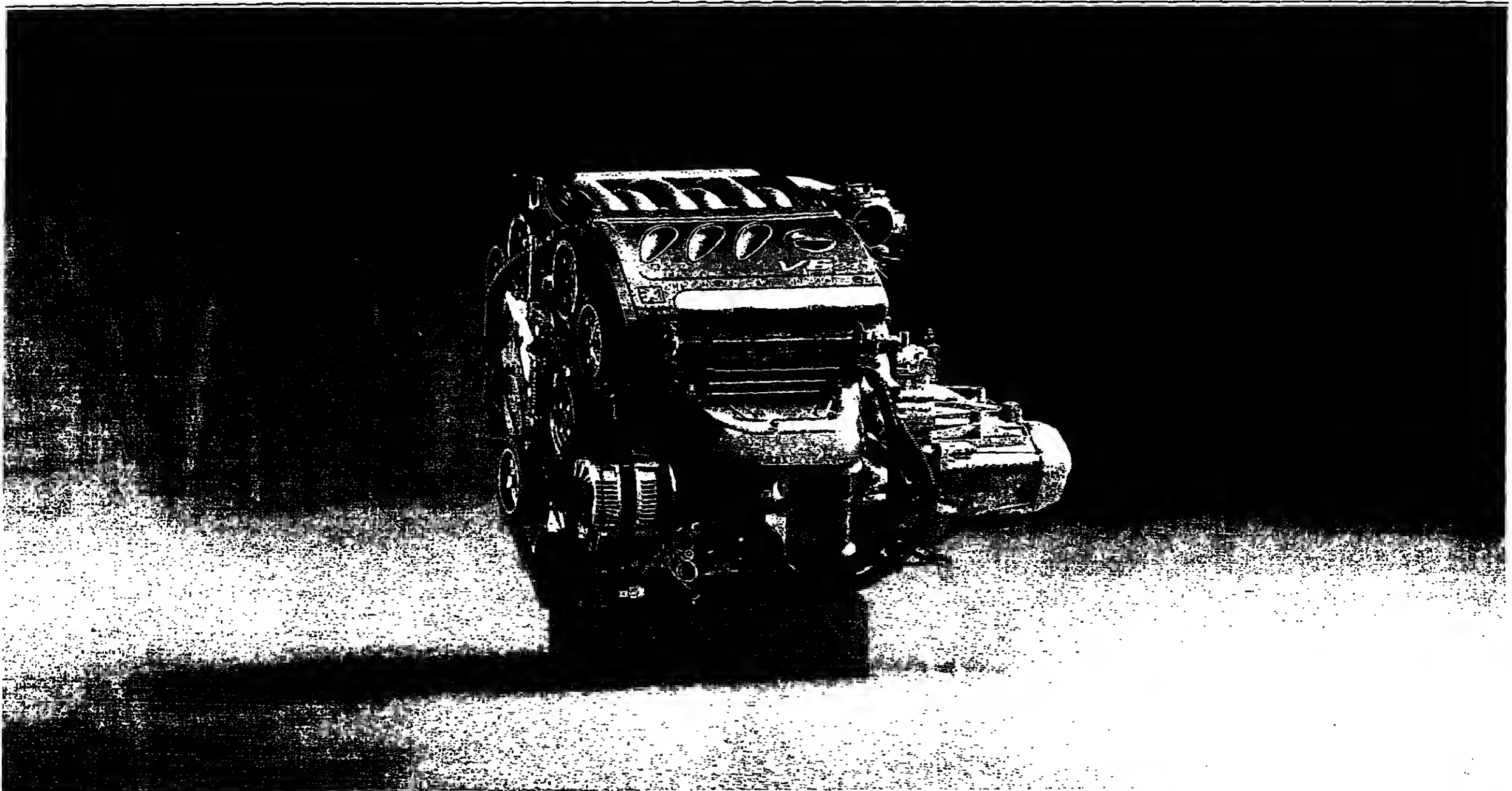
Cardiff crown court heard that the 64 blocks of cannabis resin found in the suitcase had a street value of £65,000.

Stephen Hopkins, defending, said Dowling had been

acting as a courier for a man whom he had met in a Dublin bar.

"He asked him to do the job and he agreed," said Mr Hopkins. "His gain was little but the eventual cost quite considerable."

Dowling, he said, had accepted the offer because he needed the money.



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Greens target nuclear fuel

Is atomic energy doomed in the new Germany?
Ian Traynor
reports from Bonn

THE German Greens, poised to step into national government for the first time, called yesterday for a swift end to nuclear power in the country: one of their most fundamental demands, and one which sets the scene for an early row in Gerhard Schröder's cabinet.

Kerstin Müller, co-leader of the Greens in the outgoing parliament, said the "quick" phasing out of nuclear power would be a key issue in the negotiations for a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, which begin on Friday.

Other leading Greens played down the issue. "In the general direction on this issue there is no difference between the Greens and the Social Democrats," Antje Vollmer said. "It's no longer a polarising issue."

But Mr Schröder, who is fond of declaring that if reality collides with ideology it is usually reality which is right, seems likely to keep his options open on the issue of nuclear energy, despite his party's pledge to go down the non-nuclear route.

Mr Schröder, who has been the premier of the northern state of Lower Saxony for eight years, led a "red-green" coalition in the state in 1990-94. One reason for its demise was constant bickering over nuclear energy.

Lower Saxony runs on nuclear fuel. Last year almost 70 per cent of the electricity it used was nuclear-generated, almost twice the national average, putting Lower Saxony second in the league table for nuclear power consumption in the 16 federal states.

Germany's 19 nuclear plants supply about one tenth of the country's energy needs and a third of its electricity. A string of public relations disasters involving nuclear waste transports and leaky containers seems to have turned German public opinion against nuclear power. A poll last month showed 61 per cent opposed to nuclear power, and police officers say



German police are fed up of having to defend convoys of nuclear waste from saboteurs, such as this protester in Ahaus

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROLAND WEHRHAGEN

their units are fed up with being used to protect the annual convoys of waste material from protesters and saboteurs.

As a result, the German nuclear lobby is on the defensive and the big utilities companies and power station operators are anxious about the talks that the new government is likely to convene to try to reach an agreement on energy policy.

During the election campaign the heads of two of the biggest nuclear operating firms said there would be no non-nuclear agreement with the new government, and hinted they could take their business abroad.

The differences between the big parties on nuclear power appear stark. The outgoing centre-right government of

Helmut Kohl backed nuclear power unequivocally, and last month the environment minister, Angela Merkel, said all talk of phasing out nuclear energy was "irresponsible".

In contrast, the election manifesto of Mr Schröder's Social Democratic Party (SPD) says: "Atomic power cannot be advocated because of the large safety risks and the danger of unforeseeable damage..."

"The SPD-led government will pave the way to safe energy supplies without atomic power. The SPD-led govern-

ment will do its utmost to end the use of nuclear power as quickly as possible."

It is those last four words which are crucial in what appears to be an unambiguous commitment to no nukes.

Mr Schröder, who takes the line that party manifestos are

there to be ignored, always stresses that while he supports phasing out nuclear power, it will take much longer than generally supposed: about 30 years.

But the Greens energy experts and environmentalists are calling for the plants to be closed down within 5-12 years.

A strategy paper written last month by a close ally of Mr Schröder, Wolfgang Jüttner, the SPD environment minister in Lower Saxony, made it plain that there was unlikely to be a quick breakthrough on the issue.

It pointed out that the nuclear lobby was "misreading the high level of latent rejection of nuclear energy by the public" and affirmed that "ending nuclear energy is an important political aim for the SPD".

He told the Bildzeitung newspaper: "Our daughter Clara has just started school. So we're going to keep Hanover as our main place of residence. At least until the move to Berlin."

For years Mr Schröder has steered clear of Bonn, which he regards as dull and incestuous — he even boycotted important parliamentary meetings.

But he is very keen to associate his period in office with the birth of "the Berlin Republic", the rejuvenated Germany symbolised by the shift of government to the biggest city next year.

While campaigning he made a point of inspecting the new chancellery being built in Berlin on Mr Kohl's orders, and asking about kindergarten facilities for seven-year-old Clara.

News in brief

Arafat meets Clinton to nail differences

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton met the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, yesterday in an attempt to overcome the obstacles to an agreement on a controversial new round of Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Mr Clinton met Mr Arafat and the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, together on Monday, and invited them to return in about two weeks for a summit to agree the timetable for the pullout. Under the latest compromise, Israel would withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank if 3 per cent of it was set aside as a nature reserve that could not be developed by either side. In return, security measures would be increased by the Palestinians. — Reuters, Washington.

David Sharrock writes: An explosion in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday killed a member of the militant Islamist group Hamas and injured two others. It appeared to be an "own goal" car bombing as Israel prepared to close down for the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur.

Concessions to Democrats

THE Republican chairman of the United States House of Representatives judiciary committee said yesterday that the committee's leading Democratic and Republican investigators would meet the independent counsel Kenneth Starr's officials within a week to go over the documents left out of his report to Congress. Mr Starr has said they are irrelevant, but Democrats say they may include material that would help President Clinton's case. Republicans on the committee are trying to build goodwill with Democrats before next week's vote on an impeachment inquiry. "We are trying to accommodate them," the chairman, Henry Hyde, told reporters. He is considering bowing to some Democrat demands, including granting them the power to subpoena witnesses and documents concerning the Monica Lewinsky affair. — AP, Washington.

Basques postpone demands

BASQUE nationalists agreed yesterday to postpone their demands for independence until the separatist group ETA consolidates the ceasefire it declared two weeks ago. The leader of the Basque Nationalist Party, Xabier Arzalluz, softened his demands for immediate political concessions at a meeting with the Spanish prime minister, José María Aznar — their first since the ceasefire came into effect.

Mr Arzalluz has been under pressure to deliver a quick return on the ceasefire after his party persuaded ETA to declare the truce. Mr Aznar has promised he will be "generous" with ETA, which has killed 673 people in the past 30 years, if it abandons violence permanently. — Adela Gooch, Madrid.

Czechs welcome new Slovakia

AFTER Slovakia's authoritarian prime minister Vladimir Meciar's defeat in the polls on Sunday, the Czech Republic yesterday gave "full-hearted support" to its neighbour joining the accelerated process for European Union membership.

"Slovakia's period of non-splendid isolation is over," the Czech prime minister, Miloš Zeman, said.

His foreign minister, Jan Kavan, said Slovakia would now be welcome to join the Czechs, Poles and Hungarians in the Visegrad group, which co-ordinates their applications to join Nato and the EU. — Martin Walker, Brussels.

Taliban deal final blow

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban militia captured the last district of central Bamyan province yesterday and its jets bombed enemy positions north of Kabul, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said.

It said the Taliban captured the district after residents hoisted white flags. It was previously under the control of the Shi'ite Muslim faction Hizbe Wahadat, which is backed by Iran. AFP quoted a Taliban spokesman as saying that the militia's jets had also bombed the positions of Ahmed Shah Massoud, the military chief of the ousted Afghan government, north of Kabul, and his headquarters in the neighbouring Panjshir valley. — Reuters, Islamabad.

EU steel groups accuse Asians of dumping

David Gow
Industrial Editor

EUROPEAN steel producers want Brussels to take punitive action to stem a flood of cheap imports from the troubled economies of Asia that have made the European Union a net importer of steel for the first time.

Warning that European producers face a minimum £1.5 billion drop in profits in the second half of this year, Eurofer, the industry's trade body, is accusing Far East countries of dumping steel. The organisation is urging the European Commission to impose countervailing duties on four main products.

The news came yesterday as shares in the big European steel groups such as British Steel, Thyssen, of Germany, and Usinor, of France, fell sharply after Hoogovens, the Dutch producer, issued a profits warning and noted declining sales and prices for its products.

British Steel, which is expected in mid-November to post a steep cut in pre-tax profits for the six months to September, and which could even be forced into the red next year, said its prices had fallen by between 5 and 15 per cent because of cheap imports and over-stocking. "The storm clouds are gather-

ing," one official said.

According to an Internal Eurofer analysis seen by the Guardian, imports to the EU in the first half of this year have risen on average by nearly 75 per cent and the increases are a direct result of the Asian economic crisis and the collapse of steel demand in that region.

Tonnages into Europe from Asia are running six times higher than they were last year, at 282,000 tonnes a month, compared with 40,000 tonnes. Asian products account for 16 per cent of all steel imports compared with four per cent a year ago.

Imports, allegedly selling at prices below the cost of production and carrying state subsidies, are mainly coming from China, India, Iran, Taiwan and South Korea. But Eurofer says other countries which would usually export to the Far East are flooding the EU.

With overall EU exports down 19 per cent in the first five months of this year, and by 55 per cent to Asia alone, orders in the second quarter fell nearly 20 per cent. Prices in the last three months of this year are set to drop by up to a fifth.

Eurofer says the EU is importing 1.8 million tonnes and exporting 1.5 million tonnes a month and, if trends continue, the trade deficit by the end of the year will be 4 mil-

lion tonnes, compared with a positive balance of 10 million tonnes last year.

The UK Steel Association said: "The situation in Europe is unsustainable and can only get worse. We are calling on the commission to act as quickly as possible by bringing in trade measures to help curtail this dumping." It wants Brussels to impose countervailing duties.

British Steel earlier this month closed a rolling-mill in Rotherham with the loss of 126 jobs. Avesta Sheffield, the Stockholm-based stainless steel manufacturer in which it holds a 51 per cent stake, said it would shed 1,000 jobs because of a collapse in prices.

Senior officials at British Steel said yesterday it had no plans for further closures. Instead, it is pressing ahead with its efficiency drive, including the "de-layering" of up to 10,000 managers, and cutting investment. But some analysts say that it could begin trading at a loss unless it can boost prices next year.

Central and east European countries such as Bulgaria have boosted exports by 38 per cent while those of Serbia are up 77 per cent and Turkey by 94 per cent. Analysts say traditional exporters like Brazil and South Africa are moving into the EU market as they are hit by the Asian crisis.

BMW chairman warns of more Rover job cuts

David Gow

BERND Pischetsrieder, chairman of BMW, yesterday raised the spectre of further job losses at Rover, the German car firm's UK subsidiary.

Rover, already shedding 1,500 of its 40,000 workers and cutting production to four days a week, saw its share of the UK market fall below 9 per cent in August and foreign sales hit by the strength of sterling. Some analysts are predicting that the car-maker, which lost £31 million in 1997, could be heading for a £500 million loss this year.

But officials at the Paris Motor Show, while admitting the firm would make a loss, said it would make a loss, said it would make a loss. Mr Pischetsrieder told Reuters news agency in Paris that Rover was talking to staff and unions about cuts and expected these "would go beyond what we already announced". Short-term measures were required which could be disclosed within a fortnight.

Tony Woodley, national automotive secretary of the TGWU union, insisted no such talks were taking place.

"We do have meetings in the next two weeks and know that their market

share fell in August, they're being hit by the strong pound and they're funding a huge investment programme. It's not the best of times for Rover," he said.

Rover's target is to be trading profitably by 2000 and company officials admit this is unlikely. Rover's problems contrasted with performances from European rivals such as Mercedes and VW which announced in Paris sales increases of 28 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Swedish car firm Volvo said it was on course to beat its sales target of 400,000 this year.

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700 killed in Sri Lanka as rebels take key town

Susanah Price in Colombo

MORE than 700 Sri Lankan soldiers and Tamil Tigers have been reported killed in fighting for a strategically important town and a key highway.

The defence ministry said yesterday that 377 rebels and more than 200 soldiers had been killed in fighting around Kilinochchi.

The Tigers claimed to have captured the town with the loss of 240 of their guerrillas. There are few independent reports of the fighting as there are no civilians in Kilinochchi.

The Tigers held it until the government drove them out in 1996 and it is now a ghost town surrounded by bunkers and barbed wire.

Journalists are barred from visiting the war areas except when taken on a tour.

There were more casualties as the government tried to regain control of the A9 highway, which links government-controlled areas in the south and in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Taking control of the highway would allow the government to move goods by land rather than the much more expensive options of air and sea.

It also needs to show that it can defeat the Tigers.

The defence ministry said that more than 100 Tigers and 62 soldiers had been killed in the battle for the highway.

The land route is absolutely crucial for supplying Jaffna — as well as for the government's political plans," said a former air force commander, Air Vice-Marshal Harry Goonethilleke.

"This is one big mess as far as army is concerned. It seems the army has suffered very serious casualties."

Seriously wounded soldiers are being flown by helicopter to the capital, Colombo, where fleets of ambulances have been ferrying them to hospital.

The Tigers say they will hand over a large number of bodies to the army through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"We are in touch with both sides and we will be taking trucks up to the north to transport the bodies," said the ICRC spokesman, Harsha Gunawardene.

This latest fighting is a blow to the government's hope of ending its 16-month offensive against the Tamil Tigers, known as Jaya Sikuru or Operation Assured Victory.

The Tamil Tigers have called their latest operation Ceaseless Waves Two. In the first operation of that name they overran a military garrison in Mullativu in the north east in July 1996, killing more than a thousand soldiers.

The Tigers want to set up an independent homeland for Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

The government would accept greater devolution but says the country cannot be split in two.

Despite its vastly superior numbers, it seems unable to defeat the Tigers, and it has introduced censorship in an effort to hide the large number of casualties the rebels inflicted in May.

Yesterday the government launched the latest stage in its offensive to take the A9 by attacking the Tigers near a town on the highway about 18 miles south of Kilinochchi known as Mankulam. The government said it had made progress.

Even if progress has been made, the fighting at Kilinochchi will undoubtedly dent the army's morale as well as its defence capability, and put an end for the time being to the government's hope of bolstering its fading popularity by a military victory.



His eye blackened, Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, leaves court. The state case against him looked shaky after other accused changed their testimony

Battered Anwar in court

John Sweeney in Kuala Lumpur on the appearance of the sacked Malaysian deputy prime minister

THE prisoner — until recently Malaysia's deputy prime minister — emerged yesterday from a well beneath Kuala Lumpur's number four sessions court past an iron-barred gate, looking pale, drawn and thin, his left temple bruised, his left eye black.

Appearing in public for the first time since his arrest on September 20, Anwar Ibrahim pleaded not guilty to the nine offences of corruption and engaging in homosexual acts with which he is charged.

Despite his experiences since being detained in the wake of anti-government

demonstrations by his supporters, he looked in good spirits.

His plea of not guilty to the sex charges looked like being bolstered later in the day when the two men on whom the prosecution seem to base its case were reported to have reversed their testimony against Mr Anwar.

The two are Mr Anwar's adopted brother, Sukma Dermawan, aged 37, and the politician's former speechwriter Munawar Anees, aged 51. They confessed to being sodomised by Mr Anwar and are serving six months in jail.

Lawyers involved in the case told Reuters news agency that the two had decided to appeal against conviction.

Asked if they were retracting their guilty pleas, one lawyer said: "They now say the guilty pleas were not voluntary."

During Mr Anwar's appearance yesterday — as the court heard legal argument on whether the prisoner would be allowed to describe what had happened to him in jail, Mr Anwar caught the eye of one of the handful of Western journalists who had managed to squeeze past the police and get into the court.

The reporter pointed to his own eye, and gestured: "Why the black eye?" Mr Anwar replied by making as if to punch his own face.

Finally the accused, who also held the post of finance minister until Dr Mahathir sacked him on September 2, was allowed to speak.

He had been handcuffed and blindfolded in the cells, he said. "I was boxed very hard on the left temple and the right part of my head, I was hit very hard on the left part of my neck. I was then slapped very hard, left and right, until blood seeped down my nose and my lips."

Then, he said, he had collapsed and passed out. The beating, took place on the night of his arrest, the evening that the Queen and the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, were visiting the end of the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur with Dr Mahathir.

"The next morning," Mr Anwar continued, "there was a big swelling on my eye. I could not open it. It affected the vision of my left eye. I requested to see a doctor for five days. For five days my request was not entertained."

Mr Anwar took off his glasses to show his black eye to the judge. "Look at the condition of my eye after 10 days," he said. "You can imagine why they refused to let a doctor see me earlier."

Mr Anwar said before his arrest that he did not want the Queen or the Foreign Secretary to be embroiled in Malaysian politics. But his supporters accuse both of cowardice for making no public intervention on Mr Anwar's behalf when they were in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said last night that his former friend and supposed heir would remain in jail. "If he is freed, he will continue to incite. He will do anything to hide his wrongdoings."

If Mr Anwar is found guilty of the offence of "unnatural sex" he faces up to 20 years in jail and a possible whipping.

He is being held under the draconian Internal Security Act, which allows prisoners to be held for 60 days without seeing a lawyer. The detention can be periodically extended, and may last for years.

Two of Mr Anwar's daughters wept when they saw their father in court. His wife, Azizah Ismail, the mother of six, was also there.

Later she said she was "shocked and stunned" that my husband had been a victim of police brutality.

Referring to the Malaysian press's submission to the regime, she said: "I hope it [the allegation of police abuse] appears in the local press — joke, joke, joke."

She went on to appeal to Malaysians: "Open your eyes, open your hearts. Is it too much to ask? Open your eyes."

Researchers' bonanza as 60,000 pages of JFK evidence go public

Julian Borger in Washington

THE huge conspiracy industry centred on the 1963 assassination of President John Kennedy will get a sizeable boost today when several tons of new evidence are released, including autopsy notes and new forensic tests — even the floor tiles from the hospital room where JFK died.

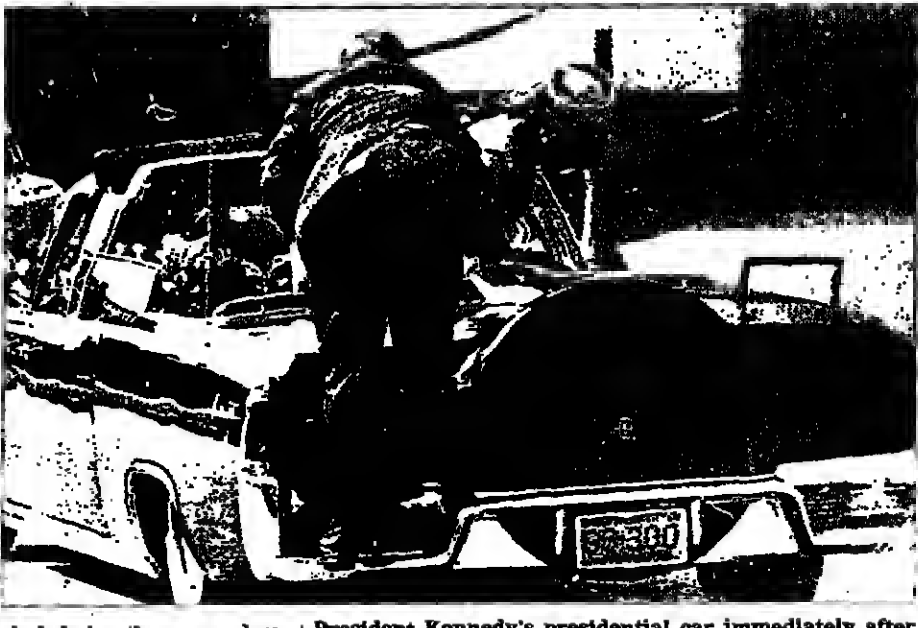
The release coincides with the winding up of the Assassination Records Review Board, set up six years ago by Congress to gather all the evidence and make it available so that a "complete, accurate and objective" account of the assassination could be made up its own mind on one of the tenacious mysteries of modern times.

Historians, journalists and freelance conspiracy theorists will be free to burrow into 60,000 pages of newly declassified documents. They will be able to view the original notes from Dallas police and FBI interrogations of Lee Harvey Oswald, as well as statements from the doctors who carried out the autopsy.

The board has spent \$8 million (\$4.7 million) sifting through an estimated 4 million pages of archives. It has custody of several pieces of physical evidence, including the entire contents of the Parkland Memorial hospital emergency room where JFK died, down to the floor and ceiling tiles.

The Kennedy autopsy has long been a focus for investigators because of the leading role played by secret servicemen and the subsequent disappearance of the president's brain. Last month the review board ordered the FBI to carry out new forensic tests on a bullet nose found in the seat of the presidential limousine. The conspiracy theorists believe the tests will prove that four bullets, not three, were fired, suggesting at least two gunmen were involved.

They may also identify the mysterious "fibrous-plant debris" embedded in the bullet fragment, which may indicate what direction it was fired from. The test results are believed to be in-



President Kennedy's presidential car immediately after the shot was fired on 22 November 1963

cluded in the new documents. The board was not asked to make judgments on who carried out the killing. But its members insist that there is no startling new evidence to challenge the official orthodoxy that Oswald was a lone assassin.

James Lesar, director of the Independent Assassination Archives and Research Centre, said: "For those who had hoped that the releases will quell the controversy, I don't think that that will happen. We have an unsolved assassination of a president of the United States that is not being investigated."

In its 236-page report, the board said the official record of the assassination "remained shrouded in secrecy and mystery" for decades. The report, due to be handed to President Clinton today, says: "Thirty years of government secrecy [has] led the American public to believe that the government had something to hide."

The controversy was fuelled by the general release of the film of the assassination made by a bystander, Abraham Zapruder. It appeared to confirm claims that Kennedy had been shot from the front, suggesting that an unidentified gunman had opened fire in front of him.

Iraqis leave West foxed

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

HOPES for an early end to the dangerous impasse between Iraq and the United Nations have been dashed amid signs that the US and Britain are floundering over their next moves.

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, is to hold a second crisis meeting with the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, later this week, after failing to persuade him to lift Baghdad's ban on international weapons inspections, diplomats said last night.

Mr Aziz told the UN chief late on Monday that the ban would stay until he heard details of a promised "comprehensive review" of UN policy towards Iraq.

But Security Council members admit they cannot agree on what the review should consist of.

Iraq wants the review to recognise progress over seven years in dismantling its weapons of mass destruction, and to start the process of lifting the sanctions which

the UN imposed to punish Baghdad for the Gulf war that began with its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

British officials have spoken of offering a "virtual carrot" to coax Iraq back into co-operation with the UN special commission, Unscorm, charged with finding and destroying Saddam Hussein's nuclear, chemical and biological arsenal.

All five permanent members of the Security Council insist that Baghdad must blink first, but with the US and Britain falling to persuade him to lift Baghdad's ban on international weapons inspections, diplomats said last night.

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Thousands of Albanian children in hiding to escape blood feuds

Owen Bowcott in Shkoder

GJIN Mekshi is a school teacher and a man of "good reputation" in his flat is decorated with lions of the Virgin Mary. His calling involves reconciling vendettas and blood feuds.

In a cramped fifth floor flat looking out on Albania's semi-lawless northern mountains, he deplores the spread of violence and the lack of respect for traditional codes of behaviour.

As a leading member of the Shkoder-based Committee for Blood Reconciliation, he works within a moral framework devised by a tribal chieftain uncommunicated for his "most un-Christian code". The 15th

century *kanun* (code) of Lek Dukagjini, which regulates revenge killings to preserve the honour of the clan, or *fis*, has been revived in northern Albania since the demise of communism. Up to 6,000 children are said to be in hiding from blood feuds.

But the code's harsh justice is no longer being respected. "The *kanun* is a good way for resolving arguments, but not in the way most people interpret it as always ending in killings," Mr Mekshi explains.

"The code doesn't allow women to be killed, but there have been cases in Tropoje [on the Kosovo border] where women have been forced into hiding by death threats."

Modern reproductions of the *kanun* are on sale in the

Tirana's kiosks. Its author is thought to be Lek Dukagjini, Lord of Dugmo and Zadrima, who fought the Turks until 1472, then fled to Italy. His intention was to limit the cycles of blood-letting among the mountain tribes which sometimes destroyed entire communities.

Enver Hoxha's regime suppressed it. But the privatisation of land, which reopened ancient disputes, and the breakdown of law and order last year, when Albania's armories were looted, have encouraged direct retribution.

"Since the committee was set up in 1991 we have resolved 365 cases in Albania and 38 abroad," Mr Mekshi records. "One feud has been running for more than 60 years."

"Sometimes the vendettas start through killings or land disputes but they also begin with a fight over a drink or a car accident. Usually it's a killing for a killing, a beating for a beating. The *kanun* doesn't specify how killings should be carried out, but if you mutilate a victim's face, attack him from behind or kill him after you gave your word not to, the bad blood comes back to you."

"Within the first 24 hours you may kill anyone from the clan to which the person who carried out the initial killing belonged — but not a woman."

"After that you can kill a member of the family. After a year, it must be only the murderer or whoever lives in his house."



Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

IN the wake of New Labour's little embarrassment over dear old Dolly Draper, ministers of the Crown have distanced themselves, with incredible eagerness, from any invitation offered by a lobbying company. All ministers, it appears, but one. I am intrigued to come into a memo from a certain Patsy Baker, who works for my noble friend Lord Tim Bell's lobbyist Bell Pottinger, concerning a meal planned for last night in Blackpool.

"Following on from yesterday's telephone conversation," it reads, "listed below are the guests I would envisage inviting to the dinner." Among this impressive roster are bosses from companies with as little to lobby the Government about as BskyB (Mark Borker), Railtrack (Sir Bob Horton) and Eurotunnel (Robert Malpas). "I would like to go ahead and start inviting people," writes Patsy. "If he would like us to include anyone in particular who is not on the list..." The "he" in question is Jack Cunningham. What the point to Jack might be, we have made no progress in discovering, but bless his heart, he is at least a law unto himself.

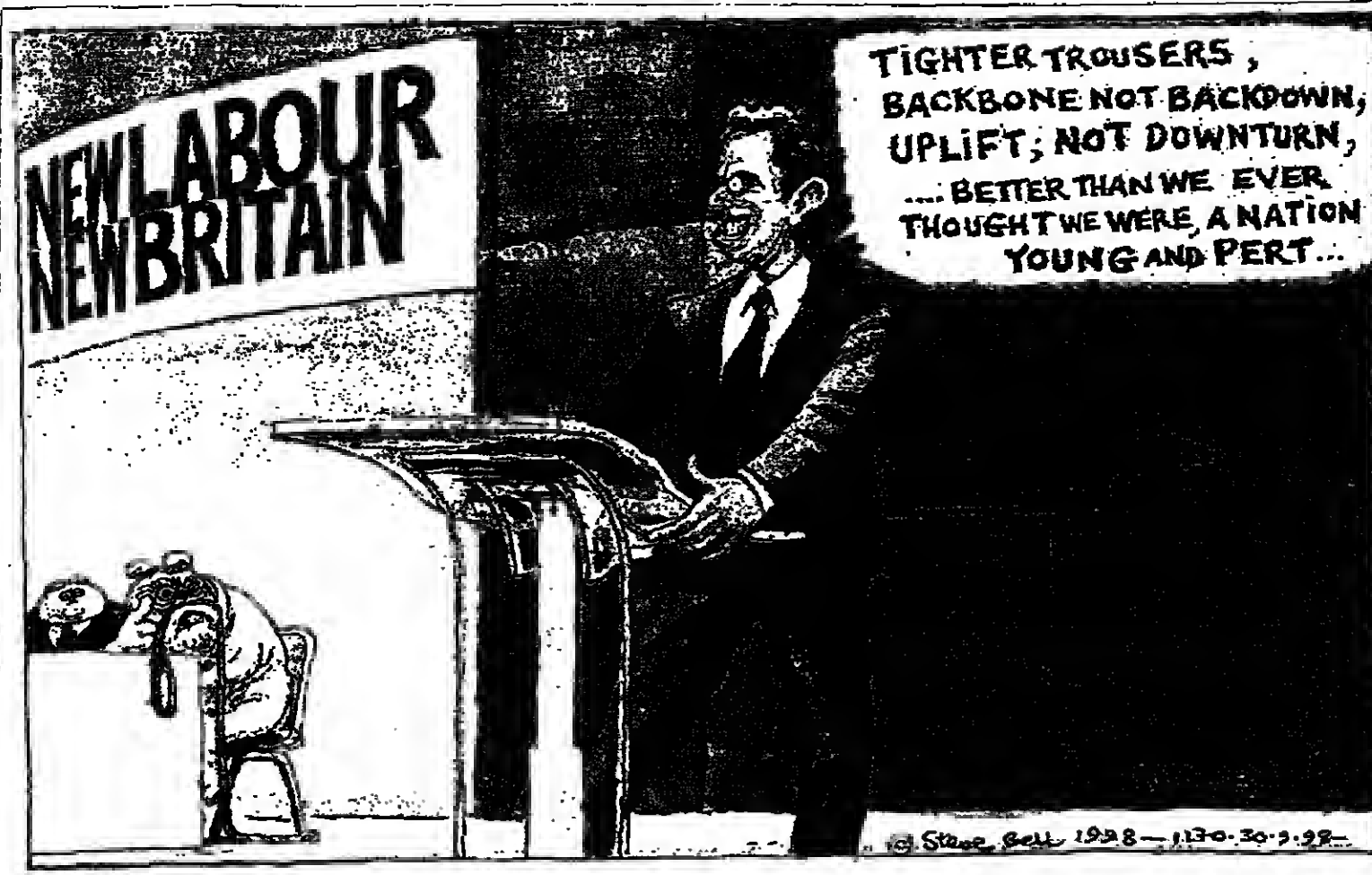
AT Canary Wharf, celebrations erupt at news of a reprieve. Staff of the Daily Telegraph were threatened with expulsion from the Living Well health club — the place where editor Charles "Atlas" Moore does his lengths of the pool and, it is rumoured, some weight training — because of overworking. Desperate protests were made, however, and finally the gym's owner Credit Suisse succumbed. "We're thrilled to pieces," says a source. "When Atlas does his weights, all the secretaries and girl reporters rush over to watch. We call it 'the 11.30', because it's just like that Diet Coke when they all oggle the gorgeous construction worker."

THE Tefal Vitessé kettle (apricot with splashes of terracotta; £37.99), which was confiscated by our electricians for testing last week, has now returned. However, questions over the thinking behind the dementedly short electrical lead persists. Stephen Luntan wrote from Faversham on Monday's letters page to point out that all electric kettles have short leads. "With up to two kilowatts of power," he explains, "and at 240 volts by 13 amps, it is unwise to approach a cold tap with a plugged-in kettle. The tap will perform as a perfect earth, and the chances of electrocution for the person holding both tap and kettle are high."

Thanks, Mr Luntan, but you haven't seen the Vitessé. The lead is astoundingly short.

AMONG many touching moments in Blackpool this week, second only perhaps to warmth of the conference reception lavished upon Mandy Mandelson was the sight of two old friends reunited. Paul Routledge may be the Mirror's Mr Angry, but in the company of Rita Rosie Boycott, the wild but winsome warlord of weed, he became a purring pussycat. Eyes in the media centre welled with tears (it is said that Trevor Kavanagh of the Sun withdrew the offer of the Express political editor's job when New Labour High Command disappeared). "We're very old mates," Rosie tells me. "I love Paul." Aashhh! who shall say that friendship counts for nought in the ruthless world of national newspapers?

AN arsonist strikes the Central London County Court in Regent's Park. He is Mr Recorder Woods, who on Monday set his chambers alight when a discarded bag and found the carpet. All seven courts were evacuated for two hours, and although no structural damage is reported, there is, according to a spokeswoman, an awful lot of soot: his room is now said to be black. As for the judge himself, when safely removed from the blaze, he was seen on the pavement lighting a second cigarette. Probably the safest place for him.



What a swell party this is. But not all of us seem to have an invitation

Jonathan Freedland



THERE'S been a brisker trade than usual at the Co-op stand in Blackpool. It slowed a little yesterday afternoon, as delegates deserted the trade fair area in their Tony Blair, but until then Co-op staff were rushed off their feet. Their "customers" were Labourites anxious to swap their now-notorious "dog-tags" — the compulsory, credential-holding necklaces sponsored by Somerfield supermarkets — for a no-name metal chain provided, free of charge, by the Co-op. Demand was so great they cleared 500 in two hours, eventually sending for extra supplies from Co-op stores around the north-west. "I don't want to be a walking advert for anybody," said one delegate, happy to model the new version.

The Labour activists gathered in Blackpool have not staged the showdown with the party high command some had predicted. On the contrary, they gave a sustained ovation to Tony Blair yesterday afternoon. But they have mounted their own little rebellions, quiet protests which say much about the state of Labour — and serve as an early warning to the Government as to what trouble may lie ahead.

Besides the underground trade in Co-op tags, the most obvious act of defiance came on Sunday — with the election of four candidates of the left-leaning Grassroots Alliance to Labour's National Executive Committee. Millbank didn't want them, but the members voted for them anyway. They've carried on making trouble. After thin applause for Peter Mandelson, delegates broke into a 45-second

ovation for Derek Hodgson — the trade unionist who dared follow the trade secretary with both an implicit attack on him and a plea to keep the Post Office out of private hands. On Monday delegate Brenda Hilditch launched her own little rocket of subversion. At the microphone, she asked: "Can you hear me, comrades?" The Empress Ballroom rang with cheers.

What does all this amount to? Is it proof of a resurgence of Old Labour — with the Co-op, the trade unions and "comrades" preferred over Somerfield, big business and "colleagues"? No, it's not as obvious as that. It's vaguer, less ideological.

For most of the rebel tag-wearers and secret comrades actually agree with much of the New Labour project. They can see the logic in the Third Way spelled out in the leader's speech, they accept that short-term economic pain is essential for long-term gain, and they celebrate the formidable record the Blair Government has already notched up — detailed once more yesterday. They know all that in their head. But they can't quite feel it in their hearts.

The Prime Minister may have unwittingly put his finger on the matter in his jacket-off Q & A session on Sunday. "You're not the Government's audience," he said. "You're part of the show." But that might be exactly the problem. Too many Labour folk seem to feel precisely like spectators. As it happens, they quite like the show, but few of them believe they have much say over the script. As one loyal Blairite minister ad-

Blair stormed them on Clause Four. He can do it again on PR

The leader ponders

Polly Toynbee



AN AURA of mystery surrounds any good leader. Everyone guesses but no one knows the deepest recesses of his mind. These are not things revealed in his great annual set-piece speech. So fevered speculation about his inner thoughts continues, nowhere more than on the most contentious issue unexpectedly blown into this week's conference — proportional representation.

Tomorrow party members, backed by union block votes, have secured a debate designed to reject next month's report of the Jenkins Commission — whatever it says. A vigorous campaign to keep first-past-the-post voting has sprung up to resist all change. There's no doubting the mood of the party. But where stands the leader?

Highly placed well-informed sources will tell you — usually with glee because that's what they hope is the truth — that PR is a dead duck. Blair has dropped it, ditched Jenkins, stabbed Paddy in the back, and is now so triumphantly secure in power for the foreseeable future that he no longer thinks a system that elected him is all that bad. Maybe. But it doesn't sound wholly in character, does it? Even those who make jokes about plumb the shadows of his political ideology might concede that no amount of spin can make that sound like the promise-keeper he says he is.

Others with close access to the leader's mind say he's playing a long game — and why not? He has always had his eye on the far horizon, always many leaps ahead of his party, a salmon he plays on long line. He has a vision of transforming Britain profoundly with radical institutional reform, much of it already happening with astonishing speed in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the European elections. It is that, then, the end of reform, bar removing the absurdities of the hereditary peerage? Is that the limit of his reforming zeal, after just 18 months? Unlikely. He has a dream — of course he does — and it is of a stable social-democratic future, governed with the consent of the majority, where extremists like Mrs Thatcher can never again seize power to distort and disfigure the political landscape with only minority backing. "Inclusive" is his word. Our political system now is profoundly exclusive — excluding the quarter of people who refused to vote last time, excluding those who want to vote anti-Blairite Labour or pro-European Tory. PR would include the poor, cutting their votes count for the first time, instead of mounting up in useless heaps where no one need bother with them, lost in the rush for a handful of swing votes in middle England.

Now and when he achieves that goal he may not be decided. He certainly isn't about to play his hand before he's ready, and that is not at this year's conference, jumped into it by opponents of change in a last-minute debate tomorrow. Watch and see the division quietly resolve itself when Blair decides the time is right.

The hostility of party activists is hardly surprising. (Ordinary party members may be a different story.) Blackpool's band of foot-soldiers is by nature odd: politics is a rum hobby indulged by very few. They have pounded pavements and calculated fine odds for too long under this system to give it up lightly. PR means giving yet more of their power to select candidates — though a top-up list adding proportional extra members can be drawn up by one-member-one-member-one-vote, and not by the central party apparatus.

The hostility of MPs is even less surprising. Change threatens many of their jobs. There is alarm among some wise old parliamentarians that delaying the referendum will make managing MPs's opposition a nightmare. Now is the time when all kinds of alternative jobs and openings are available in the new assemblies, a new House of Lords or in London government — jobs that will be well gone by 2002. Easing their quiet exit then will be a lot more difficult.

Delay is dangerous. The Liberal Democrats fear the steam escaping from the mission to reform. Events may overtake Blair's future plans. The Lib Dems are not shouting betrayal, no knives in their backs, they are holding steady — but they rightly worry whether Blair will always have this super-control. Better by far to charge forward while he holds all the reins so firmly — on with Freedom of Information, House of Lords total reform, seize the day, for he who hesitates is lost.

The spectacle of the new First Past The Post campaign was a dismal sight. There were Dennis Skinner and



PR would include the poor, making their votes count for the first time

John Speller from the opposite ends of this great coalition of theirs, united only in denouncing the coalition. Coalitions fixed by them are OK, coalitions fixed by us, so we can actually express whether our vote is for one extreme wing or the other, are apparently not. Derek Fatchett was one generous minister among those spewing out a visceral, tribal loathing of Liberals. That's how far Blair has to drag his party into looking ahead to a secure broader social-democratic future. His people seem to have air-brushed out those 18 years as if they never happened — four elections lost — but it's a wonderful system. The chance PR would give the Tories to split would presumably not interest this old guard at all. Diversity, pluralism, choice, inclusion — only narrow party activism. Well, Blair stormed them on Clause Four, and he can do it again, no doubt with equal relish, on PR. Indeed the tone of his passage on PR yesterday suggested it — yes, a token rebuke to the Lib Dems, more fatherly head-shake than knee in the groin — followed in the next breath by a commitment to give power back to the people. Listen to how the First Past The Posters sound, and you might guess where Blair stands. But expect no sign, omen or word until after Jenkins reports — and probably not then for a while.

Milosevic tells me no one is left living in the open in Kosovo. I tell him his officials are lying

We must use force

Paddy Ashdown

THE WOMAN is using a branch as a broom to sweep away the leaves from the front of her shelter. She carefully arranges the muddy threadbare shoes of her family, left at the entrance, in accordance with Albanian custom.

Inside the air is fetid and damp. Last night it rained, soaking them all and turning the ground to a muddy mess. She and her extended family of 15 have lived here under a plastic sheet since they fled from their villages under Serb shellfire 10 weeks ago. There are 700 people in this wooded valley, the entire population of just one of the hundreds of burnt-out villages which are now scattered across central and western Kosovo. Their shelters are camouflaged with branches so that they stay hidden from the Serbs. It was merely by chance that they were discovered by a sharp-eyed UNHCR official two days ago. Until then they had stayed hidden, too frightened to emerge, living off wild peaches, raw berries and

whatever they could gather from the forest. Almost no one has a decent pair of shoes and many of the children are barefoot and showing the early signs of malnutrition. Chest diseases are already beginning to carry off the elderly.

I ask one man what they will do when the fierce Kosovo winter comes. "We will die where we are, rather than return to our villages if the Serbs are still there. And anyway, what is the point? They have looted and burnt our houses; they have killed our cattle and destroyed our stocks of grain."

No one knows how many camps like this there are still in the forests, undiscovered. Next day President Milosevic tells me no one is left living in the open. I tell him his officials are lying to him. Aid workers say that there are 100,000 Albanians still living in the open, and that 25,000 lives are in jeopardy over the winter if things stay as they are.

I ask one of the children to tell me what happened when the Serbs came. I know what she is going to say before she says it because I have seen it for myself in these past few days. First comes the ultimatum, delivered by the Serb police. "Give up your weapons or we will destroy your village."

After the deadline comes the shelling. Heavy artillery and 120-millimetre mortars and heavy-calibre machine guns and T66 tanks. The weapons of total war, against defenceless villages. One after the other, I watched them.

Next come the soldier looting. I counted 17 villages in flames and countless farmhouses. I spoke to the terrified human flotilla of this medieval barbarism. Cartloads of women and children being driven from place to place by the shelling and the soldiers under the relentless rain. One grandmother holding her five-month-old grandchild and comforting her nine-months-pregnant daughter, as yet another deadline approached. She told me they had been on the move for four nights. Where should they go to now? No doubt they will join the thousands hidden in wooded valleys where the Serb authorities say they don't exist.

An old woman I meet in a village tells me she had finally dared to come back to her burnt-out house, but only during the day. Three of her friends tried to stay the night, but were found with their throats cut in the morning. In another village an old man tells me that when they returned, they found a body burnt beyond recognition, decapitated, and

with its arms and legs cut off in one of the ashes of one house. "It's their calling card," he says.

What should we do? First we have to be prepared to use force to stop this, if it continues. Air power is the only option and I remain convinced it is a viable one. Second, we must insist on free, urgent and unimpeded access to refugees wherever they are. Third, the West must come up with its own solution. We cannot wait for the opposing parties to come up with theirs. It should be based around a transitional period for Kosovo leading to large-scale autonomy, with independence as an option in the long term.

Lastly, we must understand that Kosovo is a regional problem that requires a regional solution. Kosovo is, more dangerously even than Bosnia, the unstable detonator of the wider Balkan conflict that we all fear for so long.

Like the villages of western Kosovo, the fuse is burning. It will require urgent and decisive action to put it out.

Paddy Ashdown MP is leader of the Liberal Democrat Party

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'Who wants fairies at the bottom of their garden when they can have Charlie?'

Phyllis Pyke, Letters

Blair in harmony

A new politics of values

"CAMPAIGN in poetry, govern in prose" — Mario Cuomo. The president who never was because he couldn't make up his mind might be thought an unlikely well of political philosophy for a Blair conference speech, but the words were apt. Rhetoric and ideology are fine for opposition; government is different. Government is about tough choices, risking unpopularity and taking on powerful and entrenched interests. It's time to grow up and share responsibility for the challenges ahead — "backbone, not back down". That was the lecture. As one MP of mature years wistfully remarked: "In the old days, the conference used to harangue the platform. Now the platform harangues the conference."

Mr Blair's speech was much less of a lecture than in the recent past. This was a nuanced performance: firm, but less hectoring than when he was frustrated by his party's resistance to change. Yesterday the prime minister was relaxed, confident and persuasive. He was better on inclusion than on exclusion; better on policing by crackdown than policing by consent. But his chiding of business, teachers and doubters within his own party was gentle stuff. His slap-down of the Lib Dems over PR was almost playful. Only the Scottish Nationalists were treated with genuine scorn — independence was "narrow chauvinism masquerading as idealism: wrong in principle. It is the wrong values."

The choice of words was significant.

Those who go in search of the Big Idea behind the Third Way may be heading down a blind alley, for Mr Blair is much less interested in idealism — or even ideas — than in values. Those looking for theoretical flesh to be put on the skeleton of Third Way policy-making will have found it yesterday in the language of values, clustered around what Anthony Giddens has called the "common morality of citizenship". It is about the power of the community, about "us, not me" about responsibilities as much as rights. But, lest that be too poetical, Mr Blair demonstrated how that value system can marry with the prose of government.

The context of that government was one in which unprecedented technological changes were allied to the awesome power of global capitalism — a world in which markets trade more in a day — \$1.3 trillion — than the global reserves of every government. Resistance to such forces was futile; a *laissez-faire* attitude was narrow and selfish. The Third Way — managing change — was the only response: "Accept the challenge of the future, but refuse to consider ourselves powerless to overcome it."

Some of the imminent challenges he highlighted were more prosaic than others. A war on crime is not a huge step removed from a war on traffic cones. Paying inspired headteachers £70,000 a year is good, but, in isolation, somehow not an adequate indicator of progress towards reforming state education. There were no pointers to the urgent question of regulating the untrammelled global capitalism. There was little on foreign affairs. But Northern Ireland was rightly held up as an example of pro-independence government. There were promises of determined action on congestion charging, welfare reform and family policy (the last cleverly allied with an appeal to the media not to use this as a fig leaf to excuse

dredging through private lives of public figures). Firm details of progress on other fronts were lacking, but Mr Blair did succeed in fleshing out a new politics of values and in convincing his party that these were the same as those of the country. For the first time he seemed at peace with his party. The combination of leader and party in comparative harmony, coupled with an understanding of the requirements of government is formidable indeed.

Kosovo ceasefire

But Milosevic sets the agenda

NATO last week warned Slobodan Milosevic he must cease military operations in Kosovo. This week the Serbs duly announced that those operations were over. A case of a successful display of NATO muscle? Hardly, and not only because operations are in fact still continuing. Milosevic's plan for the winter is becoming clearer. The Serbian forces have battered the Kosovo Liberation Army, uprooted a fifth of the Kosovo population and laid waste at least 200 villages.

His next move will almost certainly be to half comply with the demand that operations end, while withdrawing only a few of his units, and prevaricating on negotiations with the Kosovans and on a ceasefire. At the same time he will offer to co-operate with the West in looking after the very people he has deliberately displaced. The likelihood is that every roof his forces have shelled to bits will be put back in place by Western governments and charities, and every acre of wheat his forces have burnt will be replaced by sacks of flour from the agencies. He destroys, we pay. This is already happening to some extent. Milosevic will accede to the request of organisations like the

UNHCR, whose head he recently received to allow a more comprehensive aid effort to get under way to rescue the endangered civilians now living on the hillsides. The result will be that these people, or some of them, will be spared the worst rigours of the winter. It will almost certainly also be to bring them back under Serbian control, because the agencies will have to work on Serbian sufferance.

If the Serbian leader plays his cards in this manner, he will have achieved three aims. The KLA has been badly damaged and probably reduced, at least for a while, to a level where what some will call terrorist operations are its only option, a fact which Milosevic will exploit. The Albanian population of Kosovo has been cowed, again at least for a while, and much of it thrust into a situation where survival will depend on returning to areas controlled by Serbian forces, albeit with some protection from humanitarian agencies. And the threat of Western military action has probably been averted, because Europe and America, whatever they say at NATO meetings, are deeply reluctant to put in the ground troops needed to truly protect the Kosovo Albanians from Serbian action. The fact that civilians, aid workers and Serbian forces will be intermingled on the ground will add to that reluctance. This is the sad prospect that seems to be unfolding in Kosovo.

Fouling the ref

Make an example of Di Canio

TONY BANKS, the sports minister, is absolutely right to say that the Football Association should "throw the book" at Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday footballer who was sent off for pushing the referee to

the ground. The trouble is he didn't say which book. The FA's rule book, incredibly, allows for suspended players to continue to be paid their salaries after a maximum fine of only two weeks wages has been imposed. This is virtually an incentive to misbehave. Di Canio is said to have a short fuse though this may be an exaggeration. Ron Atkinson, who knows him, says that there is hardly any blue touch paper there at all. Di Canio didn't help his case by a brazen lack of contrition afterwards. He claimed he was being picked on for being a foreigner — forgetting that there are so many foreigners in some clubs that statistically speaking it is often difficult to pick on a Brit. The Italian even claimed that the ref "took a dive". He was charged with misconduct and given 14 days to defend himself.

Di Canio shouldn't be given kangaroo justice. He deserves a fair trial by the FA. But he will need an exceptionally good counsel to contradict the evidence seen on television by millions of people of a two-handed push on the referee. After being shown the red card he walked off filled with rage as if it had been nothing to do with him. The FA in theory has almost unlimited powers to suspend or impose hefty fines. It is vital for the future of the game that a very strong signal is given. In recent years football, commendably, has become a more peaceful, family-oriented day out. But it is still marred by unacceptable behaviour on the field. And assaulting the referees is completely out of order. They are poorly paid. Sure, they sometimes make wrong decisions which are exposed by instant video replays that they themselves don't — yet — have access to. But that's not the point. The game can't function unless the ref's decision is final. If the FA gives anything less than an exemplary sentence it won't deserve to regulate the game at all.

Letters to the Editor

Boogie nights in Blackpool

ANYONE who harbours any doubts about the degradation of British politics should take a quick look at the corporate sponsor-fest formerly known as Labour Party conference. The sight of Chris Evans boogying with Cabinet ministers will surely stay with me for a long time. Can anyone explain what Evans was doing there? At least he can dance better than Mo Mowlam and John Prescott. But where were Chumbawamba when their country needed them? David Gordon. Co Down.

TWICE in two days I have heard delegates at the Labour conference use the phrase "joined-up thinking". Does this refer to collective ideas or an illegible scrawl? Robin Musket. Peterborough.

RE Denise Vickery's somewhat ungenerous attribution of the victory of the left in the NEC elections to your selves. Your efforts surely would have been as nothing without Neil Kinnock's wick edly ironic and timely intervention. Peter Smee. Norwich.

PERHAPS Herr Schröder should take a lesson from the fashion industry: red and green should not be seen except upon a fool. Nick Emmel. Leeds.

WHY do we persist in giving affectionate names to all these death-dealing weather phenomena (Gilbert, Georges, El Niño etc). Surely in view of their random and callous wreaking of havoc, terms like "El Bruto" or simply "Hurricane Bastard" would be appropriate? Ian Ratcliffe. London.

PR gets alternative vote

SO Ken Livingstone (PM warning on electoral reform delay is problem for Ashdown, September 28) was committed to the German additional member system of PR, but is now "... happy to campaign against the form Lord Jenkins proposed, since through the party list it hands power to the leaders".

First, the Jenkins report is not out yet, so how can he campaign against something as yet unknown? Second, the AMS system involves a party list for the "top-up" additional members' list. Finally, if Ken's objection is to lists, he would need to rule out the variants adopted for Scotland and Wales as well as the European elections. That would leave either alternative vote (AV) or single transferable vote (STV), which do not involve a party list. Or does Ken really favour our present system, which kept the Tories in power for 18 years? John Thomson. Charlton St Peter, Wilt.

PERHAPS I might point out to Mr Livingstone that both AV-plus and AMS are by

bride, with both constituency seats and top-up list sections chosen by the parties, not voters. The only difference is that under AV-plus the voter casts a preferential vote (1,2,3 etc) and under AMS a plain X vote. Alex Folkes. Campaigning officer, Electoral Reform Society, London.

YOUR leader (September 28) wants more democracy within parties, but ignores that the application of democracy always lags behind a bit. Even if they are not organised, the only practical method of PR is the transferable vote system (STV): if voters prioritise candidates by ideology, ethnic origin, sex or occupation etc, such groups will be represented in proportion, even if they are not organised. Even this needs updating. Voting can be simplified by allowing "delegated preferential voting": a voter may express only a first preference and request the addition of the other preferences expressed by that candidate. STV for parliaments is more controversial. The evi-

dence suggests that the prospects are remote, until after it is accepted for committees. Richard Benjamin. London.

IT IS a little odd to see Roy J Hattersley opposing PR (Backs and ports, September 28) on the grounds that it means "there will never be another Labour government". The government we have is arguably the result of the belief, born out of desperation, that only a significant move to the right could win power under the existing electoral system. Perhaps PR is our only hope of getting a government capable of putting into practice those policies which are dear to many left-leaning hearts. Gill Chapman. Sheffield.

WOULD a system where one chamber is elected on a "first past the post" basis and the other by proportional representation be workable? Andrew Weatherall. Aberdeen.

Support for Charlie's bosom

SO what's wrong with "bouncing" Charlie of BBC's *Ground Force* (Bloomberg, September 28)? No problems there (though she could cut her hair a bit with all the bouncing down that she has to do, it would save her from having to push dirty hands through it). The cameraman is just showing viewers that the team's only woman is not a showgirl, but a hard worker. So what's upsetting Sam Wolaston? In his agitated state he failed to note that the rustic arch hadn't been done. Stephen Dade. St Albans, Herts.

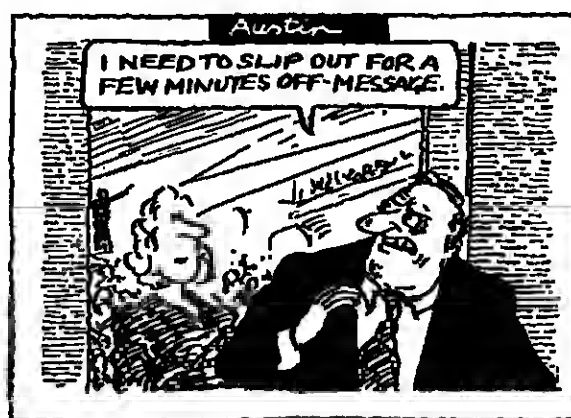
CHARLIE is one of the most naturally sexy females ever to appear on television. So why take issue with the cameraman? All right, so she put a skinkier top than usual, but the cameraman is right to let us enjoy her healthy physique engaged in real work. Much better Charlie on television than rumpole catwalk prima donnas. Tony & Barbara Vincombe. Hove, Sussex.

BEING an old bloke of 87 still struggling with a small garden and an allotment, I get a great deal of enjoyment out of watching

Ground Force. If Charlie's bosom is a bit of a disappointment, don't blame the cameraman — that's his optimistic opportunism.

A prudish word in Charlie's ear suggesting she wears a bra would not only spoil the cameraman's game, but also the programme for thousands of dirty old men who think Charlie is a really tough babe who deserves their admiration for her sheer guts as well as her physical assets. A Be. Cardiff.

WHO wants fairies at the bottom of their garden when they can have Charlie? Phyllis Pyke. Headcorn, Kent.



Shakespeare scholar on song

I WAS bemused that your article on the new accession to the Shakespeare canon (All's well that ends well for ancient research, September 28) refers to its discoverer, Eric Sams, as merely "a retired civil servant". Mr Sams is a formidable scholar and penetrating critic, deeply versed in the 16th century romantic repertoire; his books on the songs of Shakespeare, Brahms and Wolf are the standard English texts in their field.

Moreover, he is one of the foremost musical cryptographers, adept at finding the words these composers encoded in tones, and this skill has doubtless aided him in detecting Shakespeare's hand throughout Edward III. Malcolm MacDonald. Stonehouse, Glouce.

Poor Marx

WE WERE appalled by the description of Hitler's character and rise to power in Norman Stone's review of Ian Kershaw's book (Karl Marx in a brown shirt, Saturday Guardian, September 28). The apparently sympathetic tone trivialises the

criminality of Hitler and the Nazi regime — and Stone seems to embrace the alarming fashion which equates Marxism with Nazi ideology: a critique of man's exploitation of man with psychopathic rantings asserting the supremacy of the Nordic race. Ganna & Arthur Williams. Hébou & Alex Dubinsky. London.

While it is true that computer checking has played an important part in substantiating many of his theories, it should be remembered that it was this incredibly accurate ear plus his profound knowledge of Shakespeare that initially started him on his long crusade to have the play Edward III accepted in the canon. Lesley Le Claire. Oxford.

Brickbats for BBC over world music and World Service

I'VE been talking with a good many angry customers from all over the UK who come to me to buy what they hear on Andy Kershaw's show (Roots of Neglect, Media, September 28). For many of them, like myself — 38 plus, working, with kids — staying up until 2am to hear his show is not possible. So why not move him to Radio 2 where he could find a slot which runs at a more reasonable hour? Dave Atkin. Sterna African Records, London.

NOT only is Radio 1's Andy Kershaw a great populariser but the late of his programme is linked to the fortunes of World music itself. It's shocking to learn his superior at Radio 1 would rather snipe than lend support. The story is symptomatic. Humph is down to an hour; R4 is awash with inanity; and R5 is more unlistenable now than when Zemlinsky ruled the

morning airwaves. Seriously, I despair of the BBC. Mike Butler. Manchester.

ONCE again it is left to John Tusa (Brit's blunder, September 25) to sound the alarm about the BBC's treatment of its own enormously influential World Service. I was Tusa's deputy in the late eighties and Austro Kark's before that. I have long argued that World Service should report out to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but to an all-party parliamentary group, probably the Commons' Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Such a body would ensure the maintenance of full editorial independence was assured and that the BBC's senior management and board of governors respected the service's traditions and valued its impact and reputation. Christopher Bell. Chorleywood, Herts.

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Opportunity knocks

Mark Steel

THAT'S not a conference. That's just a week-long version of those tributes programmes for people like Max Bygraves or Thoru Hild that they sometimes have on Sunday nights on ITV. By next year the process will be complete. Delegates will just say: "Can I add my own personal thanks to the Prime Minister for all the pleasure he's given me over the years."

Those of us lucky enough to have worked closely with him, know he's just as charming off stage as on. The chair will be Terry Wogan, and he'll announce that the next speaker is Anthony Hopkins, who unfortunately can't be with us because of filming commitments, but has sent this taped message from Hollywood. "Hi Tone," he'll begin. "Sorry I can't be with you on your special day, but all the best and may you keep making those tough choices for many, many years. Lots of love to a lamb who no one could keep silent."

Terry will lead the laughter, then at the end, instead of the Red Flag, Blair will do a duet with Petula Clark. I watched about half an hour in one go, and had to stop as I was getting mesmerised, like when you stare too long at one of those squiggly drawings. Another 10 minutes and I'd have been like the characters in old science

fiction films who get taken over by aliens, wandering out to strangers saying: "The third way is the only way."

So it's no wonder that after three days the whole place erupted into adulation for a leader's speech which ended by telling us he wanted opportunity for all, and his children grow up being proud of their country. Were those delegates really inspired by that? If they were, they must have been worried beforehand that he'd say: "Together we can build a new Britain, with opportunity for just a handful of people, so that my children grow up thoroughly ashamed of living in a shit-hole."

One day some of those delegates may come round and, like someone recovering from years in a religious cult, wonder how they ever fell for potty ideas like zero tolerance to cut car crime. I know Michael Howard seems a long time ago, but I'm sure his policy wasn't to be intolerant to

criminals except for car thieves. Blair and Straw seem to think this policy is a new daring approach, like that of hard TV cops. Maybe they imagine a film being made where they're called into the office and told: "I've had the D.A. on my back again over you two about your lack of tolerance. I'm telling ya, we've got to play by the book."

WITH them replying: "And where's the book ever got us, Sir? All we know is there's decent folk out there who've been without car radios for too long. When we signed up to this force, we thought we were signing up to put that right and that's what we're gonna do whether we have to bust some ass or not. When it comes to scum breaking windsores, Sir, I'm afraid tolerance just isn't in our dictionary." It's not that council-estate

crime isn't a major pain. But few people on the afflicted estates have confidence in the police to do anything about it, tolerant or not. The normal procedure following a council-estate burglary is a visit from the police two days later, during which they poke the filthy chipboard door and go: "How hrrr tut tut dear old dear chuckle chuckle." In the same way a car mechanic does when he's peering into your smoking engine. Then they tell you to let them know if you see anything suspicious and leave.

A typical incident took place after a spate of burglaries on the estate where I lived: a Jamaican woman caught a burglar running out of her neighbour's flat with a television. A crowd of residents emerged to help detain the burglar, and someone let the police know as advised, who turned up an hour later. So here's the simple quiz. What happened next? They

arrested the Jamaican woman and the burglar ran off. If only it was that easy on A Question of Sport.

Many of those at Blackpool are aware of the explanation for incidents like this, which is why they cheered their leader when he expressed outrage at the murderers of Stephen Lawrence, remaining free. Yet none have questioned the wisdom of sending the same institution which allowed that to happen into council estates with an instruction of "zero tolerance". Most of them cheered Blair not because they believe in him, but because they want to believe. So they pick up a few vague comments about opportunity and convince themselves he's still on their side. Next year they'll say: "He may have put Murdoch in the Cabinet, but at least he made a powerful statement against homelessness by finishing with Don't Sleep in the Subway, Darling."

Casper Wrede

Northern light for the theatre



Wrede... influencing writers, actors, directors, designers

FIRST met the director Casper Wrede, who has died aged 68, in 1968. Together with Michael Elliott and James Maxwell — both now also dead — he founded in London the 69 Theatre Company at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. It was devoted mostly to plays from the European repertoire. That season he directed Maxwell's translation of *Hamlet's Death*, Strindberg's *Creditors* with Mal Zetterling and the premiere of Alun Owen's *Rough and Ready Lot*. But the chief contribution of the season was that it laid the foundations of a great theatre. Out of the 69 Theatre Company had come, in 1969, the 69 Theatre Company, and at the Edinburgh Festival that year he directed its first production, *Hamlet*, with Tom Courtenay.

That year the company moved into Manchester. Casper directed *A Man For All Seasons* and my play *Country Matters*. Of its 21 productions there were seven transferred to London. Four years later it leased Manchester's old Royal Exchange — the Victorian centre for cotton trading — creating what became Manchester's Royal Exchange

Theatre Company, famed and respected throughout the world. This was Casper's greatest concrete achievement in the theatre. He was not only a driving force but also the chief arbiter of the fundamental and ethical principles that underpinned the enterprise. Casper exerted an often crucial influence on a great many people, most especially writers, actors, directors and designers. He aspired to the highest standards of artistic endeavour and, by force of personality, encouraged those in his circle to follow suit. We came to realise that we were deviating from those standards to our cost.

Casper Wrede was born in Finland. He came to England to study at the Old Vic Drama School and began directing here in 1962, spending two years as a professional producer with the Oxford University Dramatic Society. He directed for BBC television, and began directing with Michael Elliott.

As a theatre director his preoccupation was with content not form, which, of course, made him unfashionable. At the Royal Exchange he directed the British premiere of Heinrich Von

Kleist's *The Prince of Hamburg* (1976) and a string of other continental works including Arthur Schnitzler's *The Round Dance* (*La Ronde*) in 1982, Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* in 1983 and the award-winning *The Three Sisters* in 1985. He created his own adaptation of Nadezhda Mandelstam's *Against All Hope* in 1983. He also revealed gifts for television and the cinema. He directed all my early television plays and Laurence Olivier's TV debut as John Gabriel Borkman. He directed Edith Evans in *Hay Fever* and Tom Courtenay in *Time and Time Again*. His friend Courtenay also starred in the film *Stephen's Day*, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. It was an achievement of which he was justly proud. His other films included *Private Potter* and *Reasons*. A documentary made for the BBC — one of five — on Sibelius was fine and uncompromising.

He was married twice: first to Dilys Hamlett in 1951 — the marriage was dissolved in 1976 with whom he had a son, and then in 1982 Karin Bang, who survives him.

Casper and I were friends for almost 40 years. He was one of the most remarkable and original men it has been

my privilege to know. Our relationship was intense, almost always enjoyable but, as with all true friendships, occasionally strained. The strains arose from my own timidity and from a severity in Casper's persona that could be fierce, elegant and judgmental. His rigorous demands one often at first resisted, but with time realised must be embraced. This was the experience, I suspect, of many of those close to him. It should, however, be understood that those demands were never self-serving, for he had a rare ability to detach himself from the more mundane concerns which afflicted others. He was never remotely petty; on the contrary, the pressures he exerted arose from the rarefied atmosphere of thought and spirit in which he seemed mostly to exist. Yet he could be endearingly human, full of good fellowship and good humour. Strikingly handsome and with impeccable manners, his knowledge extended to a surprising array of subjects which included food, wine, architecture, motor cars, esoteric philosophy and, perhaps, above all, the natural world which he loved with a passion.

He could, I believe, have been a splendid writer. He had a prodigious memory for people and places and an intimate relationship with the written word in several languages. But there were in him self-inflicted barriers that made his own creative process problematical and, occasionally, agonising. Yet, ironically, he was possessed of dazzling insights into the creativity of others. He understood and could analyse, as no one else I have known, the mysterious workings of the human personality in all its baffling complexity set against the force and context of the historical imperative, and this gift he laboured at all his life.

I, for one, will always be grateful to him: without Casper, my life would be impoverished. He was a towering and profound human being, a man of immense dignity, whose true memorial will be the lasting inspiration he gave to those, like me, who were fortunate to know and love him.

Ronald Harwood

Casper Wrede, director, born February 8, 1929; died September 28, 1998

Mazhar Khan

A life of crime in Bombay

MAZHAR KHAN, who has died aged 45, will be remembered as a popular character actor in Hindi cinema and on Indian television — and for a flamboyant lifestyle. Mazhar, a smooth Muslim, made his film debut in *Ramshippy's Shyam*, which featured a host of Bollywood stars. The movie established his reputation as a highly talented actor, although he lacked the looks of a typical Hindi film hero. However Mazhar soon became typecast and ended up repeatedly playing gangsters, as in *Shahid Nair's Angaar* where he was cast as the scheming son of a criminal boss.

In search of good parts he tried south Indian language films, with little success. In the mid-1980s, suffering from a money problem, he cut down his film appearances, just as the era of television serials began in India. It was an ideal medium for Mazhar and it was again Ramshippy who offered him the role of Roshanlal in his serial *Buntybad*.

Mazhar Khan was the son of an advocate and studied at Bombay's prestigious Christian School and St Xavier's College. His first marriage was to a model, Nandini Son. His second was to Rubina, the niece of Bollywood's tragedy king Dilip Kumar. Rubina, a woman of independent nature, soon announced that she found it "impossible" to live with him.

His third much-publicised marriage was to a glamorous actress of yesteryear, Zeenat Aman. They met on the set of the Indian version of *Bhawanji Junction*. But he had a series of affairs with the Bollywood girls who buzzed around him, while she was a self-proclaimed sex bomb. Their recent divorce was accompanied by Mazhar accusing his wife of trying to live her screen life for real, while she accused him of besting her up in public. After the divorce Mazhar was a broken man.

He was immensely fond of literature. But he loved acting and the cinema. As he breathed his last, his very own film *Gang*, set in the Bombay underworld, was almost ready for release. He and Zeenat had two sons and a daughter.

Harsh Pandya

Mazhar Khan, actor, born July 22, 1953; died September 15, 1998

Letter

Professor U Sulowski writes: I only had the pleasure to experience the skills of David Dunn (obituary September 29) as surgeon and teacher for six weeks during an elective period as a medical student at Addenbrook's hospital, but he taught me more than just surgery; he radiated and reflected the idea that work and working is not just struggling and coping with the various shortcomings of today's medical practice but something enjoyable and fulfilling. An attitude which we Germans — and German surgeons in particular — unfortunately, very often lack.

Thus, David Dunn had substantially hastened my professional success (which he, to my amazement, had foreseen) but I am even more grateful to him for the chance to experience his character and his view on life. There is only one sad thing about it: there won't be a chance to meet David Dunn on earth again.

Death Notices

CHICAGO (KOBLEN) ... suddenly on September 29, 1998, at the age of 71 years, Dorothy loved husband of 50 years, brother of Ellen and Natalie. Funeral service to take place on Friday, October 2nd at 11:00 am at Waukegan Church, Waukegan, Illinois. Burial in the Waukegan Cemetery. Donations and inquiries to Co-operative Funeral Service, Inc. 1011 N. 1st St. Chicago, IL 60610.

In Memoriam

NEWSPAPER, Kate, 30th September 1998 to 2nd October 1998. You are missed very much by all your family and friends, but your light and wit still shine on us through your wonderful son Tom.

Birthdays

BARRETT, Rev. Dr. Gordon OBE, aged 76, Past President of the Methodist Church and former Principal of NCH Action for Children.

A Country Diary

CHILTERN: The autumn seems to have arrived prematurely and oppressively here. It is still warm, the leaves are barely tinged, but in some subtle way it is unquestionably the fall. The luring cloud seems to have made the air heavy, and everything that danced in the sky a month ago has now sunk to ground level. Torpid wasps dither around the brambles. Daddy-long-legs crash from tussock to tussock. It is above all the season of those very embodiments of the air, the slugs. Every evening they march out in echelons across the lawns, and some mornings gather in seething, salivating masses for late mating. I hadn't appreciated how committedly carnivorous they are, until last week I found one gnawing out the whole abdominal cavity of a dead mouse. It is getting hard to drag one's eyes up — except that these last September days see the brightest show of naturalised plants of the year. The rail

journey to London is one long parade of escapes along the embankments. Buddleia is still blooming, great trains of Russian vine — the mile-a-minute plant — loop along fences; even the much-villified Japanese knotwood, its tresses of creamy flowers standing out against the heart-shaped leaves, shows why it was such a bit with Victorian gardeners. Best (and least controversial) are the drifts of Michaelmas daisy; there are at least half a dozen species and hybrids involved and, like japed, they were popularised by the Victorian champion of 'the wild garden', William Robinson: "the best... form a very interesting aspect of vegetation... which one sees in the American woods in late summer and autumn when the golden rods and asters are seen in bloom together" — a combination that is of course an earlier contribution to the embankment display. RICHARD MABEY

Eva Reichmann

The Germany that didn't succumb

ALONGSIDE the philosopher Hannah Arendt and the historian Eberhard Jäckel, Eva Reichmann, who has died aged 101, was one of this century's three outstanding German-Jewish women scholars. Born Eva Jungmann in Silesia, she took a social sciences degree at Heidelberg before joining the Berlin head office of the Jewish defence organisation, the Centralverein, in 1924. Her first years, as a woman working in a typical male-orientated organisation, were not easy — and it did not help that she was more intelligent than most of her colleagues.

She married the lawyer Hans Reichmann, also a Centralverein functionary. They were a remarkable partnership. Hans was one of the in-

fluential of a cleverly camouflaged anti-Nazi propaganda campaign in the last phase of the Weimar Republic, and Eva provided intellectual ammunition as editor of an influential Jewish journal. In 1933, the battle lost, they stayed with the organisation to assist the beleaguered community. Within the framework dictated by the Nazi regime, the Reichmanns exploited every legal loophole by which Nazi orders could be circumvented. In November 1938, after the *Kristallnacht*, the state-sponsored mob attack on Jews and Jewish property, Hans was in Berlin and sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. When he was released they fled to Britain.

Exile meant, initially, hardship and wartime internment

for Hans, but Eva later found a place working at the BBC. After the war she became director of research at the War Library, alerting the British public to the continuing threat of fascism and racism. For her, as for so many émigrés, exile became integration and England a much-loved homeland. She was one of the founders of the Leo Baeck Institute, set up in London for the study of the history of German Jewry, and here her work is seminal.

The magisterial *Hostages of Civilisation* (1950), for which she gained a second doctorate from the London School of Economics, is the most profound analysis of the Jewish catastrophe in Germany. Unlike her antagonist, the scholar Gershom Scholem, she did not accept that Jewish integration in Germany had been a total failure. She maintained that the politically progressive Jewish group had fallen victim to an immature German nationalism — the German title *Flucht in den Hass* — Flight into Hate — better conveys her thesis. Hers is a complex and shrewd analysis and the book is a mine of information.

On the death of her sister Elizabeth, who had married Max Beerbaum, Eva Reichmann became holder of the copyright of Beerbaum's literary estate. Elizabeth Jungmann had had a penchant for older creative writers. She was secretary to the playwright Gerhard Hauptmann, a close friend of the poet Rudolf Binding, and companion to Beerbaum, whom she married shortly before he died. She outlived him by barely a year. Eva, too, was an admirer of Max, and this brought her the friendship of Beerbaum's publisher, Rupert Hart-Davies. In a journal entry Hart-Davies details the unusual dinner served at "a very good dinner with the Reichmanns". It was Hans who cooked; Eva merely



Reichmann... working for German-Jewish reconciliation

chose the wines. Their Hampstead home offered gastronomic as well as intellectual meat. Hans Reichmann died in 1964. Eva continued to receive and entertain visitors: a generation of younger historians came to discuss their work. She was skilled at prompting one to think that insights gained and formulations evolved were entirely one's own when, in fact, they derived from her inspiration. As author and lecturer, she worked for German-Jewish reconciliation after the war. She had loathed the excesses of fanatical German nationalism, but had always maintained that there was another Germany of those who had never entirely succumbed to Nazism and felt that they had

to be supported and strengthened. To the young she spoke directly, frequently lecturing in Germany. In recognition of her services to German democracy, the federal government awarded her its highest honour.

She had no children. In a BBC interview she said how much she had wanted a family, but her husband told her that it would be cruel to bring children into the world in terrible times. "So Hitler took your children. In a sense," said the interviewer, "he took my children."

Arnold Paucker

Eva Reichmann, historian, born January 16, 1897; died September 16, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report, Page 2, September 28, headed, Mail mirrors triumph of middle class, we said it was the first time that the Mail had outsold the Mirror. This was not true. The Mail was founded in 1898, the Mirror in 1903, and the Mirror did not establish its supremacy immediately. We said that since 1992 the Mail had added 700,000 readers. It has added about 700,000 copies to its circulation; the number of new readers would be far greater. We said David Montgomery was the Mirror Group chairman. He is chief executive. The chairman is Victor Blank.

IN THE Monday interview with John Mortimer, Page 6, 28 September 28, we referred to "the modest white clapperboard house" where he lived with his parents. He lived in a modest white clap-board house. Clap-board: a long, thin board, thicker along one edge than the other, used in covering the outer walls of buildings. (Webster's). Clapperboard: a device of hinged boards struck together to synchronize the starting of picture and sound machinery in filming (Oxford).

IN THE Profile of Gordon Brown, Pages 6 and 7, the Saturday review, September 26, we said Mr Brown's father, John, "was [Kirkcaldy] Church of Scotland rector." All ministers in the Church of Scotland are equal — simply "ministers". A CAPTION to a photograph on Page 15, yesterday, said Benjamin Netanyahu shakes hands with Madeleine Albright as Yasser Arafat looks on, although it was plain to see that it was Netanyahu and Arafat who were shaking hands. It was corrected for late editions.

A CAPTION, Page 19, September 25, to a photograph with a report headed, Colonel admits Lesotho error, spell Lesotho incorrectly (Lesotho).

PROFESSOR Reginald Jones, who appeared in our Birthdays column, Page 22, yesterday, died in December last year. Apologies.

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Birthdays

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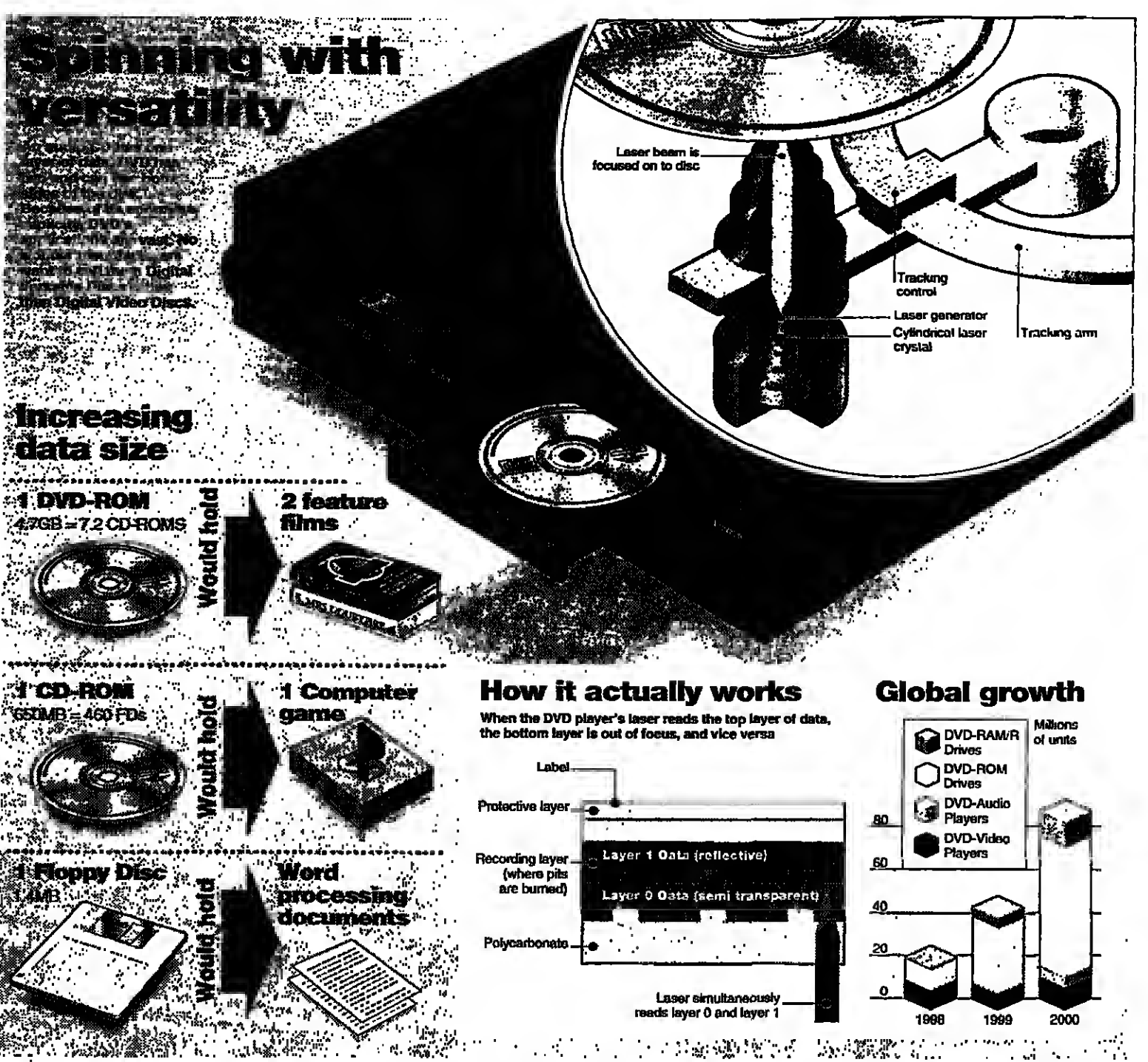
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Analysis New technology

Don't panic, but here comes the next one

DVD stands for Digital Video Disc and it's coming to a computer near you soon. It allows much more data to be stored. Enough, say, for two or more versions of the same Hollywood film. Does that mean it's time to junk your video cassette recorder or audio CD player? **Jack Schofield** advises caution.



IT'S THE next big thing since the last big thing, which might have been Sony's MiniDisc or Philips's Digital Compact Cassette or DAT Audio Tape, or CD-Interactive (CDI), or Video CD or whatever. That little list shows how hard it is to launch a new format, be it for music, films or computer software. Many consumers have suffered from previous "format wars" — notably the battle between VHS and Betamax videotape systems. They know it's expensive to back a losing format and don't want to make the same mistake twice. But with the launch of DVD the consumer electronics industry seems to have learned the same lesson.

Simon Heller is a marketing consultant working for the DVD Committee, a British suppliers' group, which is about to launch a publicity campaign. It is, he says, an example of "companies putting aside their own sales and marketing strategies for the good of the format". In this case, Sony, Philips, JVC, Panasonic, Pioneer and Toshiba are all on the same side, and it's not hard to understand why. Compact cassette tapes have been around since the 1950s, video tapes since the Seventies, and CDs since the early Eighties. By now they are all "mature" formats, which means most

potential buyers have already got one and don't really want another.

What the suppliers want is a new format that will keep production lines turning for another 20 years. Film studios and content suppliers, retailers and magazine publishers like the idea as well. If you once bought all your favourite records on vinyl and then bought them again on CD, the industry loves you. Similarly if you've bought all your favourite movies on VHS tape, you'll want to buy them again on DVD-Video disc. And that's because DVD will provide higher quality, greater ease of use and more durability and — this is the lesson learned by manufacturers — DVD players will also play your audio CDs. The consumer pays, but everyone wins.

DVD has the same basic format as CD, which has been sensationally successful since it was launched by Philips and Sony in 1982. DVD will thus benefit from some of the huge economies of scale that have helped make CDs so cheap to produce plus the ready supply of storage boxes, racks, and high-street shops with the right-sized shelves.

DVD is different because computer technology has moved on in the past 16 years and it's now possible to put much more data on the same size disc. This increased capacity is useful in itself but

DVD doubles it and has the capacity to double it again. The first doubling comes about because where audio CDs have only one layer of data, DVD can have two layers, one on top of the other. When the laser in the playing equipment reads the top layer, the bottom layer is out of focus, and vice versa. (In fact, in the laboratory, it's already possible to read disks with many more layers of information.)

The second doubling comes from an even simpler idea: use both sides of the disc. DVD, unlike CD, allows for double-sided discs. Expanding the disc's capacity solves the main problem with the CD format. While it had enough capacity to hold one or even two vinyl LPs, it couldn't manage a full-length Hollywood film. Using data compression, about 74 minutes was the best you could get. Using two discs meant Joe Sixpack had to get up to change discs while watching a film, and real couch potatoes couldn't be expected to do that.

BUT DVD has so much more capacity than a CD, it's possible to put four films on a dual-layer, double-sided disc. This has practical

applications. It means that, for example, publishers can put a TV-style "pan & scan" version of a film on one layer and a widescreen ("letter-box") version on another. The extra capacity could also be used to provide different cuts of a film, censored and uncensored versions, up to nine different camera angles, or "branching" videos with multiple storylines. DVD also has space for cinema-style sound tracks using six loudspeakers (left/centre/right, two rear speakers, and a subwoofer for extra bass), different language versions, subtitles, captions for children, lyrics for karaoke and so on. Of course, not all DVD discs are going to have these features — publishers have to put them in — but the capability is there. And as with CD, there are many other potential uses, which is why manufacturers are calling them Digital Versatile Discs rather than Digital Video Discs. In fact, the most rapid adoption may not be in DVD players but in the personal computer and games console markets. Datamonitor predicts that in five years 78 per cent of the software bought by European consumers will be delivered on DVD-ROM instead of on CD-ROM.

Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer company, launched the first computer with a built-in DVD-ROM drive at the end of 1996, and DVD drives

started to become popular in the United States last year. Mass market computer companies such as Time and Gateway are already offering PCs with DVD-ROM drives here and read/write or recordable drives may also become popular. But versatility can also create confusion. For example, Panasonic, one of the format's leading Japanese backers, touts the fact that its DVD-ROM computer drive can read DVD-ROM, DVD-Video, DVD-R (recordable), audio CD, CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW (read/write) and Video CD formats, and it foresees the time when DVD-ROM drives are small and cheap enough to use in video cameras. Richard Todd, Panasonic's UK spokesman, says: "DVD is all encompassing."

ALTHOUGH computer read/write drives can't produce DVD discs that can be read by today's DVD players, "eventually, the aim is that all the DVD formats will be compatible and interchangeable with each other." There has already been a speck of this in the form of the Super Audio CD, which can be read by all of them — multi-channel Dolby Digital — is, he says, "more oriented towards surround sound than straight audio". It may appeal more to home cinema buffs than hi-fi purists. Super Audio CD does have an appeal. Since the DVD format provides for two layers of data, it says, why not use one for DVD-Audio and the other for CD? That way the same disc will run in both types of player. SACC's advan-

tage is that music publishers will only have to produce, and consumers will only have to buy one dual-format CD. Aware that standards battles are anathema to consumers, Philips's spokeswoman, Margie van Hooren, is ready to put a Dutch finger in the door. SACC, she says, "is still a technology discussion. We're showing the world why we think it's a good solution for backwards compatibility and backwards compatibility with audio CD is very important. But we haven't entered into any product discussions yet, and you cannot exclude the possibility that the two groups will find a solution."

AS for the different read/write formats, van Hooren points out that most are aimed at professional uses like disc mastering and computer storage, which are of no relevance to consumers. "You need to have a world standard for DVD-Video and DVD-ROM," she says. "But a DVD-RW [read/write] format for consumers, where you really need far more storage capacity, we don't see that happening in the next two to three years." Like the DVD-Audio format, DVD-RW is still under discussion, and some onlookers doubt that it will ever be a practical way for consumers

to record television programmes. Indeed, D-VHS, a data version of good old audio tape, may turn out to be more attractive. The manufacturer JVC launched its first D-VHS recorder in the United States this summer and a D-VHS tape — which looks just like a normal VHS tape — can record seven hours, 21 hours, or 49 hours of video, depending on quality. Digital Compact Cassettes weren't a success, but digital VHS tapes may be a different story. In sum, while DVD may one day turn out to be a universal panacea, at the moment it's mainly just a better way of playing back movies for those who want it, and can afford it. So what should consumers do? "It's very simple," says Andy Clough of What Hi-Fi? "Sit back and wait! It's early days yet, and I think there's a lot of mileage left in audio CD. It's not going to disappear overnight."

Sources: (1) CD-ROM Publishing in Europe, 1997-2002, Datamonitor Europe, 106 Baker Street, London W1M 1LA; (2) See the DVD FAQ of Frequently Asked Questions posted in the www.video.dvd.tech Usenet newsgroup or on the Web at <http://www.videoscovery.com/vdyweb/dvd/dvfaq.html> Graphics: Finbar Sheehy. Jack Schofield is the Guardian's computer editor.

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FinanceGuardian

Fed takes out 'insurance policy'

Rate cut deflates Wall St

Mark Tran in Washington

WALL Street was unimpressed last night by the Federal Reserve's modest cut in interest rates as investors already expected some loosening of monetary policy after last week's hints from Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

The 0.25 per cent cut, the first reduction in US interest rates since early 1996, brought the Fed funds rate down to 5.25 per cent but left investors looking for more.

The move is not expected to trigger immediate rate cuts elsewhere, including the UK.

Disappointment that the Fed had not cut more aggres-

sively saw the Dow Jones index down 70 points at 8087. On Monday the Dow rose 80 points on top of a 188-point gain last week in expectation of the Fed's move.

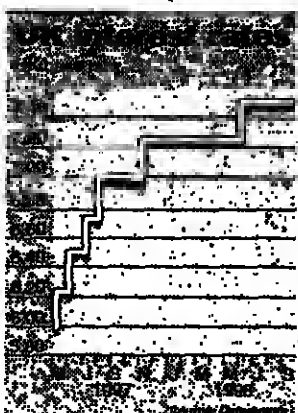
Mr Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee last week there was little evidence that foreign problems or tightening financial conditions in domestic markets had produced any significant underlying weakness in the American economy.

But he warned of problems ahead. "The restraining effects of recent developments on the US economy are likely to intensify. We can already see signs of the erosion of production around the edges, especially in manufacturing."

"Disappointing profits in a number of industries and less

rapid expansion of sales suggest some stretching out of capital investment plans in the months ahead. Lower equity prices and higher financing costs should damp household and business spending and greater uncertainty and risk aversion may also lead to more cautious spending behaviour."

The US economy has already begun to slow down from its vigorous growth rate at the beginning of the year. Growth tapered off sharply as export sales to Asia slumped, although American companies eked out a small second quarter rise in profits. Gross domestic product increased at a 1.6 per cent annual rate, down from 5.5 per cent during the first three months of the year.



Investors around the world fear that should slow US growth spill into recession, the global economy would be

deprived of its main engine for growth.

In July, the Fed was worried about the rising demand for labour and possible inflationary pressure that would derail the current expansion, the longest in US history.

Since then, Mr Greenspan said, "deteriorating foreign economies and their spillover to domestic markets have increased the possibility that the slowdown in the growth of the American economy will be more than sufficient to hold inflation in check."

The latest economic data tends to support Mr Greenspan's view of US economic trends. Consumer confidence dropped sharply in September amid fears that the US economy will be affected by the global economic contagion.

The Conference Board, a private research group in New York, reported that its index of consumer confidence fell 7.1 per cent to 126 from 133.1 per cent in August.

"Tumultuous financial markets here and abroad and unsettling political developments in the US have been major factors in curbing consumer confidence," said Lynn Franco of the Conference Board.

A Fed rate cut will act as an "insurance policy," said Mickey Levy, chief economist for NationsBank Montgomery Securities in New York. "The Fed's intent is to improve market psychology by making clear that the world's largest central bank is willing to do its part to try to minimise further market contagion."

Notebook

Cutting a dash in laidback fashion



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE decision facing the Federal Reserve yesterday was not whether to cut interest rates — chairman Alan Greenspan decided that last week — but by how much. None the less, the cut is to be welcomed. By acting now, the Fed is effectively saying that its decision to keep rates on hold, despite the pressures, over the last year was the result of monetary inactivity and not the sort of paralysis normally associated with rabbits caught in headlights.

But one US rate cut does not mean the crises besetting the world — Asia, Russia, hedge funds, Latin America and the western banking sector's exposure to all of them — have been resolved.

The issue now to the fore is the Fed's ability to manage the plethora of interlinked problems — massaging markets' dented confidence while keeping the US economic handwagon rolling with sufficient momentum to tow other, less fortunate, economies into calmer waters.

Despite Wall Street's initial disappointment, by cutting by 0.25 per cent, Mr Greenspan has probably got it right so far. Had he cut by 0.5 per cent, he would have run the risk of markets worrying he had been too aggressive and that the Fed's move was motivated by panic, that there might be worse news to come and the Fed was getting its retaliation in first. Yesterday's move leaves the way open for more cuts without spooking already nervous markets.

And more cuts there will have to be. A few years ago the Fed effectively cut real interest rates almost to zero to help the US financial system cope with the fall-out from the savings and loans sector. If the Fed were to go as far this time it would imply cumulative cuts of around 200 basis points.

Right road

THE Italian government has put forward a proposal to state off a global slump by injecting almost \$150 billion of spare cash into the European economy.

The core of the idea would be to deploy the "excess" central bank reserves of the 11 nations due to launch the euro on January 1. This money would be spent on Europe's infrastructure and telecommunications, on promoting research and development, thus stimulating demand.

The idea is not new. It was floated a couple of years ago but was shelved as it was then some way short of a racing certainty so the scheme never got off the ground. The proposal does have some attrac-

tions. Euro-land would like to do its bit for world growth and its own economic prospects — but unlike the US Fed, it cannot look to lower interest rates. Cutting borrowing costs in Germany and France would only make it tougher for the likes of Spain and Ireland to ensure their interest rates converge with their partners by the end of the year.

Nor would the amount be just a drop in the ocean. Whichever institution was given responsibility for the cash would be able to leverage the funds available.

The scheme is, however, likely to get short shrift. The tricky bit would be to spend that kind of money wisely. It would take years to get and vet the right kind of projects.

Nor are the central bankers likely to be keen to part with the money. They might well reckon it would upset the markets because they would see it as a wheeze to get round Maastricht spending limits.

Tanked-up tigers

THE Italian initiative might sound a mite fanciful but more pragmatic efforts are under way to try to underpin threatened areas of the world economy.

In Asia, Japan may seem down and out with its crippled banking system but it also recognises that it has a regional responsibility. Like the US, it knows that its own growth is dependent on living in a healthy neighbourhood.

The veteran and reforming finance minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, is planning to unveil a series of initiatives at the forthcoming International Monetary Fund/World Bank meetings which will be designed to take the pressure off the former tigers.

This is expected to include loan guarantees and interest rate subsidies for the four key hard-hit economies — Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia. This will fall short of the more ambitious idea, which surfaced last year, of a \$100 billion Asian fund, but will be a self-help move in the right direction. It cannot come soon enough, given the failure of the Japanese economy to respond to stimulation measures and the spread of economic gloom to China.

All of this as the US, together with the IMF and Latin American institutions, has been quietly assembling cash for the region. The contingency package involving the IMF/World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as private sector institutions, is designed to provide a lifeline to the key Latin American economies.

It is being emphasised that the \$30 billion facility is not a bail-out, but a standby facility available should the market turbulence which has rolled Latin American markets return.

Such schemes, as well as the Federal Reserve's bail-out of Long-Term Capital Management in New York, suggest that the Group of Seven may have been caught breathless by the fallout from Moscow, but is not totally out of puff.



Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, wants investors and consumers to invest and spend

PHOTOGRAPH: JOE MARQUETTE

Growth must sprout from fig leaf policy

Mark Milner on a psychological move to buy more time for the world to sort out its problems

FEDERAL Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan enjoys a reputation as a markets maestro. As one cynical observer noted at the height of the Clinton crisis presidency: "It's a good job it's not someone important like [Treasury secretary Robert] Rubin or Greenspan."

Yet Mr Greenspan's interest rate call yesterday was perhaps one of the most delicate he has had to make. It was not that Mr Greenspan and his colleagues on the Fed's open market committee could just give the interest rate lever a twist and thus

free the world economy from crisis.

In practical terms the Fed cut simply sanctioned falls in market interest rates which have already taken place. US corporates and consumers will not suddenly find their debt burdens hugely lightened, boosting profits and triggering an economy-boosting spending spree.

The Fed's move is all about market psychology, about confidence, at home and abroad. "It shows the Fed's awareness of the risk the financial market turmoil poses to the economy," according to

Tim Fox at Standard Chartered Bank. It shifts the policy emphasis from fighting inflation to encouraging growth.

The timing is crucial. Asia remains in crisis, the slowdown in the region is chipping away at growth and jobs in the west. Russia's problems have hit bank profits. Some of the same banks have been affected by the near collapse of Long-Term Capital Management, a big US hedge fund. Worries of worse to come from the hedge fund sector threaten a liquidity crunch, with banks cutting lending which in turn hampers economic growth.

Then there is increasing concern that the financial market contagion will spread decisively to Latin America. Brazil in particular. At the end of March US banks' ex-

posure to Brazil alone was \$27.2 billion.

Although the Fed's move is unlikely to prompt a rash of rate cuts around the world, its move at least gives the G7 a policy fig leaf to hide behind. Mr Greenspan's strategy is to show, clearly, that the Fed cares and thereby persuade investors and consumers in the US that they can keep on investing, keep on spending and, as a result, keep growth going. If investors get their confidence back the US stock market will rise.

If the market rises, US consumers, many of whom have stock market holdings will feel wealthier and more prepared to spend — which will help to keep the economy moving. If the Fed can calm nerves, investors may be less inclined to seek safe havens

for their money and leave it in riskier areas, like Brazil. A strong US economy will help to pull other economies along.

In a sense, Mr Greenspan is trying to persuade financial markets that the worst the markets have to fear is fear itself, though sceptics might note that he has acted only when the crisis has come close to home.

The big question is whether the financial markets believe he has called it right, again. If they do Mr Greenspan has bought more time for the world to sort out its problems. If they don't the consequences will be serious.

"It is impressive and frightening how much does hang on one person. If the markets ever think Mr Greenspan has lost it, what else is there?" asks Allison Cottrell at PaineWebber.

Hedge funds boost £100bn deals

HEDGE funds could be behind a sharp rise in the use of sophisticated currency and interest rate contracts in the City, writes Mark Milner

Daily turnover in currency and interest rate derivatives in London in the so-called over-the-counter market has risen sharply since the Fed's move was motivated by panic, that there might be worse news to come and the Fed was getting its retaliation in first.

Yesterday Bank officials said they did not know which group or groups within the "other financial services" category were responsible for the sharp rise in deals, but industry sources believe hedge funds — speculative funds which seek big returns from financial markets by taking big risks — are likely to be larger users of the OTC market than the other groups.

The survey confirmed London's status as the world's leading centre for foreign exchange trading. Daily turnover was up 87 per cent on three years ago and totalled \$637 billion — equalling the total of the next three largest centres, New York, Tokyo and Singapore.

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City traders face jobs and bonus disaster

Up to £500 million could be wiped off this year's Christmas payout, say Jill Treanor and Julia Finch

UP TO £500 million could be wiped off City bonuses this year after last year's record \$1 billion Christmas bonanza.

Thousands of jobs are under threat because of the recent turmoil on world financial markets.

And a leading City employment lawyer said changes in City employment practices are under way, with investment banks keen to cut their payroll costs by putting workers on flexible contracts and shorter working weeks.

The downturn in the fortunes of City workers, after six years of booming growth which culminated in last year's record, has happened with phenomenal speed.

It started with the collapse of the Russian economy, which dented stockmarket

confidence around the world and has been fuelled by last week's unprecedented \$2 billion bail-out of a high-risk US hedge fund.

"In the last six weeks the world has changed," said an investment banker. "This is not a one to two month crash but a 12 to 18 month downturn." Another senior banker warned: "This is worse than 1987." After that downturn up to 50,000 City jobs were lost.

The huge drop in annual bonus payments was predicted by Fraser Coutts, a consultant with the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), which provides forecasts and analysis for many top banks.

"Unless there is a massive let-up in the turmoil, it looks like things are getting worse. There is no bottom." The CEBR's predictions come as

speculation mounts about the extent of job losses planned by investment banks.

The worst-hit businesses are the debt markets and traders specialising in the emerging economies. Equity traders who specialise in Britain, the US and Europe might escape relatively unscathed. They had a record first half.

But yesterday the spokesman at one Japanese City bank said the mood in the Square Mile was gloomy. Some areas of the investment banking business had stopped trading. "The only activity is people trying to get things off their books," he said.

Barclays Capital, which says it faces substantial losses from Russia and which was involved in last week's hedge fund fiasco, yesterday refused to comment on reports that it plans to shed 200 jobs. UBS, of



Traders love the high life but recession will spell disaster for many PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY HALL

Switzerland, Europe's biggest bank, which faces a loss of more \$400 million for its investment in the hedge fund, and other losses, is understood to be considering further job cuts in London. It has reduced its City workforce by 2,000 this year after merging with SBC Warburg Dillon Read, and has ordered all staff to remain upbeat when dealing with clients to avoid further undermining confidence.

Investment banks are notoriously coy about plans for hiring and firing, but several are already sounding alarms and say that costs must be cut.

At Merrill Lynch, which employs 6,000 City workers, staff have been told that they must reduce expenses. The

bank has banned staff from taking business class flights on short-haul journeys and ordered them to get senior approval for Concorde flights.

Staff can no longer automatically claim the cost of a taxi home after working late. The Christmas party, which was last year held at the Natural History Museum, is being "downsized".

Measure of consolation

GOLDMAN SACHS was expected to name 160 new managing partners last night in an attempt to pacify employees who had expected to share in the vast rewards of its postponed stock market flotation, writes Jill Treanor.

Managing partners are considered to be on a fast track to a partnership at the investment bank and almost guaranteed millionaire status. There were rumours in London last night that 36 of the new managing partners would be Europe-based.

The managing partner status was only introduced two years ago and the first upgrades to full partner are expected to be announced next month.

Yesterday Jon Corzine, senior partner, in a broadcast to Goldman staff worldwide, explained that there was "clear execution risk" in floating the firm now. He stressed that the 200 or so partners were committed to a flotation later.

Financial institutions have taken the brunt of the turmoil in world stock markets and some of the leading US banks have watched their shares collapse by 50 per cent.

While Goldman's rise came as the decision by the 200 or so partners to delay the flotation was seen, they thought the highly-regarded bankers might suffer a temporary dent to their reputation. "They've got such a huge reputation," one investment banker said. "They've got egg on their faces in the short term."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 2.78	Germany 2.77	Malaysia 6.38	Singapore 2.81
Austria 13.40	Greece 480.00	Mexico 0.622	South Africa 8.71
Belgium 57.36	Hong Kong 12.89	Netherlands 3.123	Spain 254.91
Canada 2.604	India 71.56	New Zealand 1.331	Sweden 13.06
Cyprus 1.008	Ireland 1.108	Portugal 285.43	Switzerland 139.1
Denmark 16.82	Italy 2.762	Saudi Arabia 5.30	Turkey 445.950
Finland 5.546	Japan 2.762	USA 1.004	
France			

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Five-match ban for Bradbury, page 13

Decision day for Graham, page 14

Exhausted Henman crashes to defeat, page 15

Woodward drops the young Turks, page 15

SportsGuardian

Norwegians blown away as wayward striker rediscovers his form

Uefa Cup first round, second leg: Stromsgodset 0 Aston Villa 3 (aggregate 2-6)

Collymore back with a hat-trick

Russell Thomas in Drammen

STAN COLLYMORE reannounced his striking prowess on the European stage here last night with a hat-trick that will be vividly recalled as Aston Villa's manager John Gregory selects teams to defend their proud Premiership position.

Villa's £7 million record signing will confront much better defences than that of the distressed Norwegians but that cannot detract from a

Match stats

	Strom	Villa
Possession	32%	68%
Attempts on target	8	5
Attempts off target	6	4
Corners	6	3
Fouls	7	9
Offsides	2	3
Bookings	0	2

timely display of often unfulfilled talent.

European conflict seems to suit Collymore, given that his previous goal was his stunning effort against Atletico Madrid six months ago. Here, he was creator and executioner in another disciplined and efficient Villa performance.

There were scarcely any of the alarms that afflicted Villa in the first leg and the part-timers soon faced a climb as steep as the ski slope brilliantly illuminated behind one end of the Marienlyst Stadium.

Unfortunately for the Stromsgodset faithful, their worst fears were realised by two explosions from Collymore in an attractive and by no means one-sided first half.

The Norwegians were bolstered by two former Premiership war-horses, Jostein Flo, once of Sheffield United, and the rugged Erlend Johnsen, the former Chelsea centre-back. Johnsen made a physical impression on Collymore but Flo, often raiding



Two up, one to go... Stan Collymore sidefoots his and Aston Villa's second goal before completing his hat-trick

alone up front, could not make the same striking impact as Villa's £7 million man.

The Norwegians were neat, economical and often quick but their first lapse of technique, after 10 minutes, was ruthlessly punished. When Johnsen, under no great pressure, lost possession on the

edge of the area Collymore's response was impressively unforgiving. A quick sight of goal was followed by an emphatic right-foot shot into the far corner with Glenn Arne Hansen utterly beaten.

Collymore's confidence soared and he could not resist another, more hopeful shot

from similar range seven minutes later. This effort flew over but in Villa's next attack of note the striker calmly readjusted his sights.

A Gary Charles cross from the right caused havoc in the home area, the ball ending everyone but Hansen, who could only push it towards

Jan Taylor. A lay-back saw Mark Draper shoot, the ball taking a deflection to Collymore, whose left foot dispatched the ball home.

Before and after these goals Flo demonstrated the aerial menace once feared by Graham Taylor's England. An early header set up the impressive Christer George, whose header passed narrowly over Mark Bosnich's crossbar. Then, as Villa relaxed on the cushion of their two-goal lead, Flo reminded everyone of his menace by springing impressively to bring a smart save from Villa's goalkeeper.

Further encouraging interchanges between Collymore and Julian Joachim were an eye-catching feature of the second half. Once Collymore superbly supplied his co-striker with the opportunity to drive in a fierce angled shot, Joachim soon returned the compliment, a wonderful clipped pass from the left sending Collymore on his way. He brushed aside Thomas Waschler but Hansen's outstretched leg diverted the shot to safety.

Joachim's contribution was more productive in the 64th minute. The striker somehow eluded Lars Granas on the byline and his cross was so precise that Collymore, hardly a yard out, needed only the simplest of connections to complete his hat-trick.

Villa's control was by now so complete that Gregory could afford to replace Joachim, the striking job done, to give the teenager Darius Vassell, the two-goal hero of the first leg, further European experience. Yet still the Norwegians, introducing three substitutes of their own, stuck manfully to their task. A Rune Hagen shot was turned away by Bosnich and later Waschler saw an acrobatic miskick deflected for a corner.

Stromsgodset (4-5-1): Hansen; Granas, Johnsen, Waschler, Skjelted; George (Jedrej, 50), Nym, Solberg, E. Hagen (Glen, 50), R. Hagen (Flo).

Aston Villa (2-4-3): Bosnich; Eltopu, Sothman, Grimes, Charles (Bosnich, 51), Taylor (Parrnell, 60), Draper, Thompson, Wright; Joachim (Vassell, 67) Collymore.

Referee: O. Schuch (Switzerland).

Smell of singed sexism lingers on at Lord's



Paul Weaver

THERE are misogynists who have redeeming features. Johannes Brahms, for all his misanthropy in personal relationships, did manage to dash off a beguiling violin concerto, not to mention a fetching little clarinet quintet.

Fabio Picasso appeared to prefer dogs to women — his Rose Period was not dedicated to a girlfriend — but at least he treated dogs well and also found the time to dabble in cubism. The fact that Rudyard Kipling, Kingsley Amis and William Burroughs were always clattering away on their Adlers and Underwoods surely owed something to the fact that they shared a certain chumminess in matters romantic.

But what will we inherit from the die-hard of the Marylebone Cricket Club, whose number have finally decided to admit women to the pavilion for the first time in 211 years? They do not have to wait for posterity to ridicule them. In all sport there is no body of people quite so absurd, so unforgivably ridiculous, as their likely legacy will be a small, men-only bar in their famous pavilion.

The next cricket season feels an aeon or two away in the damp chill of an autumn mist, but when it arrives you will not be able to get near Lord's because the place will be choked with anthropologists asking for the new MCP bar, which will be offered as a sop to the club's more conservative members in the wake of Monday's historic decision.

They will no doubt sniff at the cricket before turning away with a bewildered half-smile. They will give nothing more than a cursory glance towards the charms of the Mound Stand, the new Media Centre or the stunning new Grand Stand and they are unlikely to be distracted by the tiny Ashes urn or the portrait of W G Grace.

Instead they will make straight for The Buffet and Duffer Retreat, the Old Fogies' Last Stand. They will probably pause at the door and place an large hanky over mouth and nose, because the nearest whiff of snuff and formaldehyde — not to mention the acrid smell of singed sexism —

can be offensive to the olfactory senses.

Inside, the atmosphere will be bitter with the sense of thwarted bigotry. The monocled mutineers, in their thorn-proof tweeds, will order more pink gins and toast the day when cricket was played in tall hats and with curved bats, and when Emmeline was nothing more than a twinkle in the eyes of Mr and Mrs Pankhurst.

There are some people who thought that women would have to chain themselves to the Grace Gates or hurl themselves under the drum-beating hooves of a galloping long-leg fieldman before they were admitted to the MCC.

Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie is an intelligent man but it is his sense of humour, which is something else altogether, he will leave Lord's and make straight for his bunker. The outgoing MCC president may even give Salman Rushdie a bell and ask him what he is going to do with all his bodyguards now.

Hell hath no fury like a misogynist scorned, and some bacon-and-egg livermen are doubtless plotting a terrible revenge at the very moment that the rest of the club is celebrating one of its better hours.

The irony is that the women will eventually march into the Long Room, their heels clicking on the polished wooden floor, look the portraits of Don Bradman and Douglas Jardine straight in the eye, and fume out. They are likely to be monumentally disappointed. The best thing about the Lord's pavilion is its red-brick splendour and its fluttering flags. This is a stately ocean liner of a building and if it is to be enjoyed at all it should be from the outside, and best of all from the Compton and Edrich Stands.

AFTER this long-awaited triumph for reason and logic the other bastions of the MCP should fall like so many dominoes. The argument against women membership of the MCC, so crass and neurotic, was also so well documented that its defeat will be hugely symbolic.

If there is anything to be regretted about the vote for women it is that it gives greater impetus to the winds of political correctness which rust through all our lives like Hurricane Georges.

Meanwhile, if we are to have a men-only bar, why not a women-only one too? If we have a bar for codgers, old buzzards and mossybacks we should also have one for bidders, biddies and battle-axes. It might be the best match of the season.

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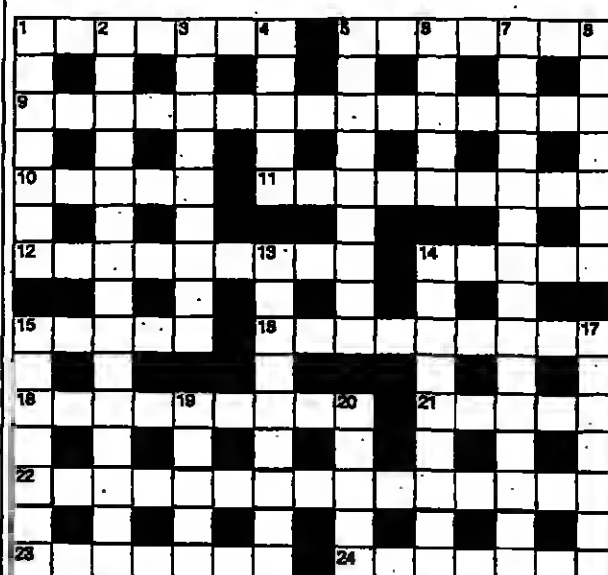
You're unlikely to see their concerts reviewed. Yet, if they produced installations with the energy and originality with which they produce scores, you might see their work in the Saatchi gallery.

Charlotte Higgins

G2 p10

Guardian Crossword No 21,393

Set by Araucaria

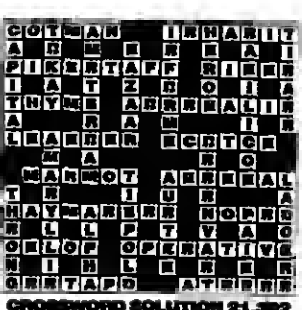


Across

- Scientist finds omission for error in the sea (7)
- Picture of fat lot receiving a knock (7)
- Word book, gold backed, reaches the end of the great reptiles (8,9)
- Not the worker's position (5)
- Reptile's skin contacted with anger (4-5)
- Surprisingly Blair made good (9)
- Sport about to bed down on the floor (5)
- Cross into the sacred, as one may be pursued (5)
- Flaw — wrote "diverse" for "divers" (9)
- Look to see where actors come in and suffer society? (4,5)
- Strap the end of two vowels together (5)
- I would say "thingamabob": —? (4,2,3,4,2)
- Article with a strap in it (7)
- Competition for Royal Mail in posttime? (4-5)
- Irregular sounding primate (7)
- True plays when they were within the law? (10,5)
- True plays produced with prologue by vicar? (3,2,4)
- Predator of 16 has gone too far with Queen (5)
- Grin when it's built on some night say — but don't (5,4)
- Heard the value of Paris to Harry IV (5)
- Cart had trouble next: beat third (4,3,2,5)
- OIA leaves monk with tank (7)

Down

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,392

- The Queen Mother was present when Wesley came in — point taken (5-4)
- River's entering well with fish — not the lowest part (5,4)
- One who gets 50% in an IQ test? (7)
- Match for boat? (7)
- Sponge died in prison (5)
- Provide example of English humour? (5)

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